

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center  
Homer, Alaska  
November 7, 2017  
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Encelewski, Chairman  
Judy Caminer  
Eleanor Dementi  
Ricky Gease  
Ed Holston  
Andrew McLaughlin  
Michael Opheim  
Diane Selanoff  
Dan Stevens  
Gloria Stickwan

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Homer, Alaska - 11/7/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, good morning, everyone. I'm going to go ahead and call the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council back in session this morning.

And Donald, do you got anything before we get started?

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly. We passed out some additional reading materials for your information and I just handed out a new updated fall 2018 Regional Advisory Council meeting calendar for later on's discussions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

Okay. Without further adieu then, if there's nothing else pressing we're going to go ahead and continue on our proposals. And we're on Wildlife Proposal 18-55.

And Tom, you go right ahead.

MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Members of the Council. For the record, I'm Tom Evans and I work with OSM as a wildlife biologist.

Proposal WP18-55 can be found on page 175 of your Board book. The proposal was submitted by the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and requests that the fall and winter moose seasons be extended from August 24th to September 20th and November 1st to February 28th to August 20th to September 30th and November 1st to April 30th, in a portion of Unit 12 within the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve north and east of the Pickerel Lake Winter Trail.

The moose population in 2012 in the Tetlin portion in the southeastern portion of Unit 12 based on a minimum population of 4,773 in 2012 was

1 between 4,883 and 6,571. That averages -- that comes  
2 out to about .08 to 1.1 moose per square mile.

3  
4 Population surveys are conducted every  
5 three to four years, which makes it difficult to  
6 respond to trends in the population in a timely manner.  
7 Population surveys have not been done in the Tetlin  
8 National Wildlife Refuge for the past five years  
9 because of poor survey conditions.

10  
11 Moose densities have been relatively  
12 stable within the southeastern portion in the northeast  
13 survey area since 2008. The bull/cow ratio was 52 per  
14 100 cows, which is above the State management  
15 guidelines of 40, and the cow/calf ratio dropped from  
16 33 to 18 from 2003 to 2012. Usually less than 20  
17 calves per 100 cows may indicate a population starting  
18 to head into decline.

19  
20 The State's sustainable harvest rate  
21 for Unit 12 is three to four percent, which was based  
22 on the 2010/2014 population estimate, would be 135 to  
23 193 animals at three percent or 180 to 257 animals at  
24 four percent. An average of 132 moose were harvested  
25 from 2006 to 2015. In 2015, 163 moose were harvested.  
26 Approximately 30 percent of the moose are taken by Unit  
27 12 residents.

28  
29 Most of the moose in this area are  
30 hunted under the State regulations. On average, only  
31 two moose were taken from 2016 to 2018 under the  
32 Federal registration hunt FM1203. If adopted, this  
33 proposal would increase the opportunity for Federally  
34 qualified users in the area to have more opportunity to  
35 harvest moose.

36  
37 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
38 support Proposal WP18-55.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 And I'll entertain questions.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty.

45  
46 Thank you, Tom.

47  
48 Questions for Tom on the presentation  
49 proposal.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Either they're  
4 all asleep or they're all satisfied. So very good.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to  
9 move on then.

10

11 Thank you, Tom.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: During consultation, did  
14 anybody call into the meeting?

15

16 MR. EVANS: Do you have anything on  
17 that, Donald?

18

19 MR. MIKE: Yes. For the record, this  
20 is Donald Mike. We had a consultation process that  
21 started September 14th and it was -- notification was  
22 sent by Orville Lind for Tribal and ANCSA consultation.  
23 And I don't believe we had anything from Tetlin folks  
24 that called in.

25

26 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, this is Orville  
27 Lind, Native Liaison, OSM. I can answer that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Orville.  
30 Go ahead.

31

32 MR. LIND: Yeah. Good morning, Chair  
33 and Council Members. Yeah. We conducted consultation  
34 for the Region on September 14th and no one called in  
35 for that session, both Tribal or ANCSA.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 MR. LIND: You're welcome.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

42

43 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair and Donald or  
44 Orville, I thought at the beginning of the meeting  
45 there was a comment from Northway.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Yes. There's a comment from  
48 Northway.

49

50

1 MS. CAMINER: Oh, okay.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry.  
4 There is a comment from Northway.

5

6 Thanks for the reminder.

7

8 There's a Tribal comment from Jamie,  
9 from Northway Tribal Council, expressing subsistence  
10 concern on expanding moose harvest in WP18-55. She  
11 mentioned that her Tribal members are having difficulty  
12 in finding moose because there are low densities in  
13 their harvest areas. While they intend that the  
14 Proposal 18-55 is to align regulations with neighboring  
15 areas and provide additional subsistence opportunities  
16 for local residents, Northway Council does not agree  
17 that the proposal meets such stated intent and will in  
18 fact have negative consequences to their moose  
19 harvesting opportunities.

20

21 Also, she mentioned that law  
22 enforcement is lacking and more aircraft will be used,  
23 which they do not support.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. LIND: My apologies. I just saw  
28 that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

31

32 MR. MIKE: And Mr. Chair, if I can ask  
33 folks online to please identify yourself. And I just  
34 want to remind you to have your phones muted.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 You can get started, online folks.

39

40 Introductions again.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara  
43 Cellarius, at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
44 Preserve, in Copper Center.

45

46 MS. MCCALL VALENTINE: This is Erica  
47 McCall Valentine, the interim social scientist through  
48 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program at AITRC.

49

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1 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, Native Liaison  
2 for the Office of Subsistence Management.

3  
4 MS. DEMENTI: This is Eleanor Dementi.

5  
6 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Department of  
7 Fish and Game, in Palmer.

8  
9 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Donald.  
12 Good call.

13  
14 Okay, Judy. Did you have a follow-up  
15 question on that?

16  
17 MS. CAMINER: No.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Are we  
20 ready to go. We're going to go ahead and report  
21 Tribes.

22  
23 Any Tribes.

24  
25 MR. MIKE: There's the one from  
26 Northway I read into the record.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Correct.

31  
32 Okay. Any other. ANCSA Corps.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about  
37 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

38  
39 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark  
40 Burch, in Palmer, if there's no one there in the room  
41 to address this.

42  
43 MR. RINALDI: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
44 Members of the Advisory Council. My name is Todd  
45 Rinaldi. For the record, I'm with the Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game in Region 4, Division of  
47 Wildlife Conservation.

48  
49 The Department sees no biological

50

1 concerns identified with this proposal. The bull to  
2 cow ratio estimates from the two most recent surveys  
3 were above the management objective of at least 40  
4 bulls to 100 cows and were estimated at 62 bulls per  
5 100 cows and 52 to 100 cows in 2008 and 2012  
6 respectively. Moose densities in the area are  
7 relatively low, but stable, at approximately .55 to .65  
8 moose per square mile.  
9

10 The extension of the season would  
11 likely result in little additional harvest due to the  
12 antlered bull bag limit and the fact that few bulls  
13 typically retain their antlers late into winter and  
14 spring. In addition, although the extension of the  
15 fall season would result in ten more days of hunting  
16 opportunity during the late part of the season when  
17 bulls are typically trying to increase rutting  
18 activity, it would likely result in relatively little  
19 additional harvest due to the difficult access in the  
20 area.  
21

22 The Department is neutral on this  
23 proposal because it will not create biological concerns  
24 for the moose population; however, it should be noted  
25 that extending the moose season beyond this December  
26 period would likely result in the accident harvest of  
27 some cow moose.  
28

29 Thank you for your time.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.  
32 Very good.  
33

34 Questions for State.  
35

36 (No comments)  
37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Federal.  
39

40 (No comments)  
41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any Tribal  
43 agencies.  
44

45 (No comments)  
46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about  
48 advisory groups.  
49  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other regional  
4 councils' comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Fish and Game  
9 Advisory Committee.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Subsistence  
14 Resource Commission.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, if Judy's  
17 not there, I can read the comments from the Wrangell-  
18 St. Elias National.....

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy's here and  
23 she's kind of grinning about that. But she's up there  
24 now, Barbara.

25

26 MS. CELLARIUS: Great. Thanks.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Yeah.

31

32 MS. PUTERA: Mr. Chair, my name is Judy  
33 Putera, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.  
34 I'm reading the comments from the SRC.

35

36 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
37 Subsistence Resource Commission opposes WP18-55. In  
38 terms of the fall hunt, the SRC did not support  
39 extending the season into the rut. With respect to the  
40 winter season, that season is already three months  
41 long. Five months is too long for the winter season.  
42 Extending the season later in the spring when the days  
43 are longer and it is easier to get out on snowmachines  
44 could result in increase harvest.

45

46 The Commission also heard public  
47 comments opposing the proposal.

48

49 Thank you.

50



1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, you got a  
6 summary of written public comments?  
7  
8 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. You'll find  
9 your written comments on -- beginning on page 195 in  
10 your meeting materials.  
11  
12 AITRC is neutral on WP18-55.  
13  
14 And we had general comments from two  
15 individuals on Proposal 18-55 and they state please  
16 consider more important factors in your decision than  
17 matching seasons such as actual moose count trends,  
18 ability of the Refuge to patrol, increased hunting by  
19 locals in the future due to Alaska's difficult economic  
20 conditions. These factors must be considered before  
21 matching the seasons.  
22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
26 Donald.  
27  
28 Any public testimony.  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Regional  
33 Council's recommendation.  
34  
35 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.  
38  
39 MS. CAMINER: I move that we support  
40 the proposal.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We've got a  
43 motion to put the proposal.....  
44  
45 MR. OPHEIM: I second.  
46  
47 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me. I should have  
48 said adopt the proposal instead of.....  
49  
50

1 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a  
4 second.

5  
6 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by  
9 Michael.

10  
11 Okay.

12  
13 We do have it on the table here for  
14 discussion.

15  
16 Who wants to go first.

17  
18 Go ahead, Ricky.

19  
20 MR. GEASE: Is anybody from Tetlin  
21 here. I'd like to know who -- it seems to me like  
22 there's not a lot of local support for this, but where  
23 did they come up with this proposal.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's kind of  
26 confusing. Yeah.

27  
28 MS. STICKWAN: I heard that it was  
29 Tetlin Wildlife Refuge that wrote the proposal and  
30 Jamie Bonde (ph) talked to me about this proposal.  
31 She's originally from that area. And she opposed it  
32 because she said that moose will be taken where they  
33 hunt, which is in their local area. They don't -- they  
34 say that people will go out into the hills and the --  
35 because they have access with their ATVs and they don't  
36 have that. And they will take all the moose. And when  
37 the moose start coming down, there won't be hardly any  
38 moose left. So they -- that's why they opposed it.  
39 And they don't see hardly any moose there right now as  
40 it is.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. It's kind  
43 of a difficult situation here.

44  
45 You know, on one hand we're here and  
46 it's not a conservation concern. It would give more  
47 opportunity. On the other hand, we're hearing that it  
48 may hamper moose for locals if we do.

49  
50

1 So the other factor that I heard was  
2 that it may be such slight that it wouldn't really  
3 matter one way or the other, so I think we need to keep  
4 that into consideration, too.

5  
6 Anyway, that's my comments.

7  
8 Judy, go ahead.

9  
10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you. I  
11 guess I'm wondering if there's, you know, any guidance  
12 from the biologists about the concern about the April  
13 30th date. If cutting that back would help satisfy  
14 some of the concerns at least about the timing.

15  
16 And I guess just a comment for the  
17 future. We've had a couple of proposals regarding the  
18 Refuge and it would be good maybe in advance to have  
19 some Refuge people on the phone when we know we're  
20 going to be discussing proposals. Because it's a bit  
21 out of our area so it would be good to hear firsthand.  
22 But it certainly affects our residents. Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else.  
25 Comment on this.

26  
27 Go ahead, Rick.

28  
29 MR. GEASE: So of the things that we  
30 should be discussion and justification, is the  
31 recommendation supported by substantial evidence of,  
32 you know, traditional support, knowledge. It doesn't  
33 seem like this one is. It seems like the local  
34 community is not in support of this proposal and it  
35 seems like Tetlin is, but nobody's really here to  
36 expand on the justification why, so I'm having  
37 difficulty with this one.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, did you  
40 have comments?

41  
42 MS. STICKWAN: Well, I believe she said  
43 they weren't consulted. The attempts were made, but  
44 she said they weren't. I don't know what happened  
45 there.

46  
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we  
48 could have Donald -- could you please read again the  
49 Northway comment? Because, you know, I wasn't sure if  
50

1 maybe they thought -- I don't know if I heard this or  
2 not. That, you know, the earlier expansion of the  
3 dates in the fall was okay, but maybe later was not.  
4 So maybe you could just read them again one more time,  
5 please.

6  
7 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 Before I get started, I want to remind  
10 folks online please put your phone on mute. We're  
11 hearing some background noise. If you don't have a  
12 mute button, hit star 6.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 This is a comment from Jamie, from  
17 Northway. And she states the Tribal Council expressed  
18 subsistence concern on expanding moose harvest in WP18-  
19 55. She mentioned that her Tribal members are having  
20 difficulty in finding moose because there are low  
21 densities in their harvest areas. While they intend  
22 that the Proposal 18-55 is to align regulations with  
23 nearby areas and provide additional subsistence  
24 opportunities for local residents, Northway Council  
25 does not agree that their proposal meets such stated  
26 intent and will in fact have negative consequences to  
27 their moose harvest opportunities.

28  
29 She also mentioned that law enforcement  
30 is lacking and more aircraft will be used, which they  
31 do not support.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
36 Donald.

37  
38 You know, there's a -- and I had talked  
39 to Judy about this earlier. Sometimes in the past we  
40 had deferred these kind of situations to the home  
41 region a little more closely involved, so that's  
42 another option.

43  
44 I'd just throw it out there for you.

45  
46 MS. STICKWAN: I just think we should  
47 act on it because they did write comments to us.

48  
49 They are concerned about it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.  
2  
3 Someone call the question and we'll  
4 take a vote.  
5  
6 MR. GEASE: Question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been  
9 called. All in favor of the proposal, signify saying  
10 aye.  
11  
12 (No supporting votes)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Opposed.  
15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Fails.  
19  
20 Okay. Next we have statewide proposal.  
21 And we've got 18-51. Oh, damn. I've got to put -- oh,  
22 excuse me.  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Next, we've got  
27 18-51, statewide proposal. Modify bear bait and  
28 restrictions.  
29  
30 Tom, are you going to do that?  
31  
32 MR. EVANS: Yes.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.  
35  
36 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Again for the record, my name is Tom Evans.  
38  
39 Proposal 18-51 was submitted by the  
40 Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory  
41 Council and it requests that the Federal statewide bear  
42 baiting restrictions be aligned with the State  
43 regulations, specifically in the use of biodegradable  
44 materials. This can be found on page 198 of your Board  
45 books or your Council books.  
46  
47 The proponent states that the current  
48 Federal bear baiting restrictions are much more  
49 restrictive than the State's and do not provide for a  
50

1 Federal subsistence priority. Currently under the  
2 Federal regulations only biodegradable materials may be  
3 used for bait. Only the head, bones, viscera or skin  
4 of legally harvested fish and wildlife may be used for  
5 bait.

6  
7 The proponent proposes to align Federal  
8 and State bear baiting restrictions in order to reduce  
9 regulatory complexity, reduce user confusion, and allow  
10 the baiting with items such as dog food, popcorn, baked  
11 goods, greased syrup that have been traditionally used  
12 as bear bait by Federally qualified subsistence users  
13 and are currently allowed under the State regulations.

14  
15 Federal regulations for bear baiting  
16 have remained the same since they were adopted from the  
17 State regulations in 1990. Currently, black bears may  
18 be taken at bait stations under Federal regulation in  
19 all units except Units 1C, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 22, 23,  
20 and 26. Brown bear may be taken at bait stations in  
21 Units 11 and 12 and 25D.

22  
23 In 2012, the National Park Service  
24 published the final rule prohibiting the take of black  
25 or brown bears over bait on national preserves under  
26 the State regulations.

27  
28 In 2017, the National Park Service  
29 published the final rule eliminating the types of bait  
30 that may be used for taking bears under the Federal  
31 Subsistence Regulations to native fish or wildlife  
32 remains from natural mortality or parts not required to  
33 be salvaged from a legal harvest. Wrangell-St. Elias  
34 has some exceptions to that final rule.

35  
36 And I might have mentioned preserves  
37 before. That probably is parks versus preserves.

38  
39 The use of bait stations is  
40 controversial. Those that support bear baiting state  
41 that it allows hunters to be more selective in terms of  
42 sex and in identifying, you know, family groups when  
43 they come into the stations and more humane. It  
44 facilitates clean kills by a bow and it allows hunters  
45 with limited mobility to participate in the hunt.

46  
47 Those that oppose cite safety concerns  
48 from food conditioning. And we hear that repeatedly  
49 from many, many folks.

1 If adopted, this proposal would permit  
2 the use of scent lures on Federal public lands  
3 administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and  
4 the U.S. Forest Service. However, currently scent  
5 lures are not defined under the Federal regulations.  
6 If scent lures are not defined, than any materials or  
7 chemicals, including toxic and non-biodegradable  
8 materials, could be used at registered bait stations.  
9

10 So the proposed definition -- so we  
11 propose a definition of a scent lure. And this is the  
12 definition. Scent lure means any biodegradable  
13 material to which biodegradable scent is applied or  
14 infused.  
15

16 If adopted, the Federally qualified  
17 subsistence users could use any biodegradable material  
18 as well as scent lures at registered bait stations on  
19 Federal public lands again administered by the Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service, BLM or the U.S. Forest Service. A  
21 bear bait is limited to native fish and wildlife  
22 remains on national park service lands. If adopted,  
23 this proposal would align the State and Federal baiting  
24 regulations.  
25

26 The requested changes are already  
27 permitted under the State regulation and it's not  
28 expected that there would be any differences in the  
29 bear harvests, populations or subsistence uses or  
30 habituation of bears to human foods from this proposal.  
31

32 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
33 support this proposal and support 18-51 with a  
34 modification to establish a definition for scene lure  
35 and clarify the regulatory language.  
36

37 The modified regulation for the  
38 definitions of scent lure would be as follows -- it  
39 means any biodegradable material which is biodegradable  
40 scent that is applied or infused. You may use any  
41 biodegradable materials for bait. If fish and wildlife  
42 is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera or skin  
43 of legally harvested fish and wildlife. The skinned  
44 carcasses or furbearers and unclassified wildlife may  
45 be used, except in Units 7 and 15, which are units  
46 that's covered by this Region. Fish or fish parts may  
47 not be used as bait. Scent lures may be used at  
48 registered bait stations.  
49  
50

1 The terms game, fur animals, and small  
2 game are not defined under the Federal regulations, but  
3 are included in the Federal definition of wildlife.  
4 While the term big game is defined under the Federal  
5 regulations it is also included within the Federal  
6 definition of wildlife.

7  
8 This proposal basically allows for the  
9 greater use of a variety of baits and identifies scent  
10 lures in Federal regulations.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 Any questions.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.  
17 I'm sure we've got some questions here.

18  
19 Judy, do you want to start.

20  
21 MS. CAMINER: Can you remind us, Tom,  
22 why we have the exceptions in 7 and 15, please.

23  
24 MR. EVANS: Those exceptions make sense  
25 because there's a lot of fishing that goes on in the  
26 Kenai area. And they don't want to use fish because  
27 that will definitely attract bears.

28  
29 Bears are already coming in to get fish  
30 and whatnot, so I think that's the reason.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

33  
34 Ricky.

35  
36 MR. GEASE: You made a comment that  
37 there was -- you had received comments from -- it was  
38 commenter received comments from people not wanting to  
39 get food conditioned bears. Are those comments from  
40 subsistence users or is those just people who are not  
41 out in the areas where people are hunting for  
42 subsistence purposes.

43  
44 Can you kind of clarify who's making  
45 those comments and where they reside and what  
46 activities they engage in.

47  
48 MR. EVANS: Those comments come from a  
49 variety of people. They do come from some subsistence  
50



1 users that don't want to encourage bears getting closer  
2 to communities and are concerned about bear safety, but  
3 they also come from outside people who don't like bear  
4 baiting particularly at all or -- and then it comes  
5 from, you know, some of the hunters and other people  
6 that just don't agree with -- you know, feel like that  
7 food conditioning is -- you know, that it's not a good  
8 thing to do just in general.

9  
10 Yeah.

11  
12 So it's a variety of people throughout  
13 the whole spectrum.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I've got a  
16 question, Tom. Bear baiting -- I talked a little bit  
17 to the Refuge about bear baiting. I don't know. Maybe  
18 Todd will talk about it. But, you know, in bear  
19 baiting, are they targeting just the biggest and the  
20 best and the largest? Is there any effect from that  
21 that you know of?

22  
23 MR. EVANS: I do not know of any effect  
24 and I think that just varies to the hunter. You know,  
25 subsistence hunters are probably going for bears for  
26 food and some of the sporthunters are probably looking  
27 for big bears. So.....

28  
29 MR. GEASE: Is there any data on food  
30 conditioning of bears where there's bears get food  
31 conditioned? Because I know on the Kenai Peninsula a  
32 lot of time and education goes towards garbage cans,  
33 bears that are in urban areas, bears that are in dumps,  
34 bears that are, you know, finding fish carcasses on the  
35 sides of rivers that have been fileted out or poorly  
36 fileted out. I haven't heard too many things of food  
37 conditioned bears around Cooper Landing from bait  
38 stations getting into interfaces with humans in human  
39 residences.

40  
41 It seems to me a lot of what I hear is  
42 people leaving garbage out and bears getting into  
43 garbage cans, but is there actual data that supports  
44 the idea that bear baiting out in the field translates  
45 into food conditioned bears that they go into populated  
46 areas and that's the reason why they're food  
47 conditioned bears?

48  
49 MR. EVANS: There is some. There are  
50

1 some articles in the literature that talk about bear  
2 baiting and the effect that they of developing food  
3 conditioned bears. A lot of that stuff seems to come I  
4 mean from Yellowstone and some other places like where  
5 we had bear dumps. And they've closed the bear dumps  
6 or closed the trash that the bears -- attracted all the  
7 bears -- was a tourist attraction as well. But yeah,  
8 there are some things where poor management of food  
9 resources, you know, with the garbage and everything  
10 certainly attracts bear.

11  
12 Bait stations -- it's a variable thing.  
13 It depends on the area and what people are doing as to  
14 whether it causes a problem or not. So it's not just  
15 like just because you have a bear baiting station it's  
16 causing a problem.

17  
18 So it's variable on that in that sense.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy. Go  
21 ahead.

22  
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Just for our  
24 review, bear baiting stations already have a proximity  
25 restriction regulation. They can't be so close to  
26 dwelling, roads, campgrounds, human activity places  
27 anyhow, correct?

28  
29 Can you review some of that?

30  
31 MR. EVANS: That is correct. The  
32 distance I don't know off the top of my head, but I can  
33 look that up for you.

34  
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I think half mile.

36  
37 MR. EVANS: Yeah. It is a distance.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Did that answer  
40 your question?

41  
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks,  
45 Tom.

46  
47 We'll move on and see what else we come  
48 up with here, I guess.

49  
50

1 Tribes.

2  
3 (No comments)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any ANCSA Corps.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Let's see  
10 what the State could tell us about bear baiting. They  
11 ought to have a good story here.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. RINALDI: Mr. Chair, Members of the  
18 Council, thank you again for the opportunity to speak.  
19 My name is Todd Rinaldi, with the Alaska Department of  
20 Fish and Game, for the record.

21  
22 This proposal would align State and  
23 Federal regulations. Little additional take of bears  
24 is expected. There would be no expected conservation  
25 concerns and it should be noted that there no empirical  
26 evidence that currently exists to support the assertion  
27 that the use of human food sources in bear baiting  
28 habituates or food conditions bears or increases human  
29 wildlife interactions in Alaska. And it's likely to  
30 say it's also in North America. The articles in the  
31 literature either hypothesize this concept or address  
32 food conditioning stemming from non-bear baiting  
33 situations.

34  
35 Therefore, the Department supports this  
36 proposal because it reduces regulatory complexity and  
37 user confusion by allowing Federally qualified users to  
38 bait bears with additional food attractants that are  
39 currently allowed under State regulations.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

44  
45 Questions for Todd.

46  
47 Go ahead, Rick.

48  
49 MR. GEASE: Does the State have that

50

1 regulation for scent and is that aligned also?

2

3 MR. RINALDI: Yeah. Currently under  
4 State regulations scent lures can be used.

5

6 Yeah.

7

8 MR. GEASE: But what I'm saying is the  
9 definition the same for scent? How it's defined?

10

11 MR. RINALDI: I don't know if it's  
12 exactly the same. I don't know if Tom can speak to  
13 that.

14

15 MR. EVANS: I don't know.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's to be  
18 determined, I guess, huh.

19

20 Any other questions for State.

21

22 Go ahead, Rick.

23

24 MR. GEASE: So just to clarify, of the  
25 different areas where this would be implemented on  
26 Federal lands, the State has no conservation concerns?

27

28 MR. RINALDI: We have a -- through the  
29 Chair. Member Gease, we have no conservation concerns.  
30 And to further elaborate on your questions earlier, you  
31 know, bear baiting exists in some highly populated  
32 areas such as the Matanuska Valley and we see no  
33 increase or relationship with bear baiting and human  
34 food conditioning bears or bear encounters, conflicts.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay.  
37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. RINALDI: Yep.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Federal.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tribal.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other regional

50

1 councils.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Subsistence  
Resource Commission.

12

13

14

15

16

MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
For the record, my name is Mary McBurney, with the  
National Park Service, and I have the comment on WP18-  
51 from the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission.

17

18

19

20

21

22

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31

The Denali National Park Subsistence  
Resource Commission does not support WP18-51 as  
written. The Denali SRC adopted WP18-51 to align the  
Federal regulations with the State and amended the  
proposal to include only natural bait. The SRC is  
concerned about bears getting accustomed to people  
food. If bears get used to non-natural bait, they are  
going to be more aggressive to campers. The SRC does  
not want bears acclimated to human food on Federal  
lands. Although currently non-natural bait is not  
allowed on NPS lands, it is anticipated that if non-  
natural bait is legal on Federal lands there will be  
future pressure to allow non-natural baiting on NPS  
lands.

32

33

34

35

36

Other parks have severe problems with  
bears. And Denali is lucky due to management and  
education efforts that we have a lack of acclimation.  
It is difficult to reduce acclimation.

37

38

39

40

41

42

And that concludes the comment.

43

44

45

46

MS. PUTERA: Mr. Chair, this is Judy  
Putera, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

47

48

49

50

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
Subsistence Resource Commission supports WP18-15, as  
modified by the Office of Subsistence Management.

Page 208

1 Aligning State and Federal definitions of bait will  
2 simplify the regulations and make them easier for users  
3 to understand.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

8  
9 Questions for Resource Commission or  
10 the park.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Donald, if  
15 you'll do the summary, we'll -- and I do have a public  
16 comment.

17  
18 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 You'll find your written comments beginning on page 208  
20 in your meeting materials.

21  
22 Sean McGuire opposes WP18-51. There  
23 should be no human food or any human substance to bait  
24 any animals. The last thing we want is to habituate  
25 bears or any wild animal to human food.

26  
27 And another comment from Jim and  
28 Suzanne Kowalsky. They wish to strongly oppose  
29 Proposal 51 which proposes to allow Federally qualified  
30 subsistence hunters to add the use of human produced  
31 foods and scent to the presently permitted use of  
32 biodegradable materials used to bait bears on all  
33 Federal public lands.

34  
35 So they strongly oppose WP18-51.

36  
37 And finally we have a comment from  
38 Francis Mauer opposing Proposal 18-51 and stating that  
39 human refuse will habituate bears to humans and  
40 contribute to human-bear conflicts and expose innocent  
41 people to risks from bears that no longer fear humans.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
46 Donald.

47  
48 Go ahead. Come on back up, Todd.

49  
50

1 MR. RINALDI: Through the Chair. Thank  
2 you again. I just wanted to answer representative  
3 member Gease's question about scent. And I didn't want  
4 to answer before I was fully aware of what I thought  
5 the answer was. And yeah, the State does not currently  
6 have a definition of scent.

7  
8 So I just wanted to clarify that.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

13  
14 Alrighty. We have one public  
15 testimony.

16  
17 Dave Bachrach, if you want to come up.

18  
19 MR. BACHRACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
20 Members of the Council, for taking my testimony today.

21  
22 I'm asking you to oppose WP18-51. An  
23 ongoing issue of concern in public education on the  
24 Kenai Peninsula has been the conditioning of bears to  
25 attract. And it's like unsecured human food --  
26 garbage, barbecues, freezers, and even bird feeders  
27 that may attract bears to homes, businesses, recreation  
28 areas, which could result in human-bear conflicts.

29  
30 For about a decade I was a member of  
31 the Kenai Brown Bear Committee, which worked to reduce  
32 human bear conflicts and DLPs on the Kenai Peninsula.  
33 The committee had representatives from ADF&G, NPS, Fish  
34 and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Kenai Peninsula  
35 Borough, local chambers of commerce, Safari Club  
36 International, local industry, conservation groups, and  
37 area residents.

38  
39 So I'm saying there was a whole lot of  
40 people involved over a long period of time.

41  
42 Some of the programs and activities  
43 that have occurred on the Kenai Peninsula include ADF&G  
44 established a wildlife conservation community program  
45 which includes Kenai, Soldotna, Seward, Homer, Cooper  
46 Landing, Moose Pass, and Hope to raise awareness of  
47 food conditioning of bears. Grants were obtained so  
48 many residents could get bear-resistant trash  
49 containers at little or no cost. The month of April  
50

1 was established as bear awareness month in many  
2 communities on the Kenai Peninsula.

3  
4 The public safety concerns posed by  
5 food conditioned bears are universally recognized by  
6 natural resource agencies. Food conditioned bears are  
7 far more likely to be a danger to humans than bears  
8 that are not food conditioned. Food conditioning of  
9 bears tends to increase the likelihood of a bear being  
10 killed in defense of life and property.

11  
12 Baiting of bears in general is in stark  
13 contrast with the best management practices and  
14 standard public educational messaging on the issues of  
15 food and bears. Community values and public safety  
16 concerns should be given a preference over a desire to  
17 simplify a regulation statewide.

18  
19 Thank you for considering my comments.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Dave.

22  
23 Questions for Dave.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 MR. BACHRACH: Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.

30  
31 Okay. Next, Regional Council  
32 recommendation.

33  
34 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

37  
38 MS. CAMINER: I'll move to adopt the  
39 proposal.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We have a motion  
42 to adopt the proposal.

43  
44 Is there a second.

45  
46 MR. HOLSTON: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.  
49 The proposal is on the table for discussion and  
50



1 consideration.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: I have a question for the  
8 Council.

9

10 Do any of you use other than  
11 biodegradable kind of bait and what's your experience  
12 been. Or have any of you used some of this artificial  
13 lures or scents.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

16

17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Yeah. Through  
18 the Chair. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I -- this would  
23 be a proposal that I, myself, would write. You know,  
24 I'm a bear baiter. I've been holding off because our  
25 bear population went to lower levels, so I haven't been  
26 doing it for a couple of years now. But I have to  
27 change -- if I haven't gotten my bear with the State  
28 stuff when I have used dog food, okay, I have to change  
29 and not use it if I was to continue on into June, as  
30 the Federal subsistence users are allowed to use it.

31

32 So in my opinion, food is food. I'm  
33 not buying the habituating them through it. A bear  
34 goes through the woods. He smells food. If it's human  
35 food or natural food or whatever or industrial  
36 processed, food is food. They just identify with  
37 calories, you know.

38

39 So I know that I'm going to support  
40 this.

41

42 That's for sure. Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.

45

46 Do you have a question? Go ahead, Ed.

47

48 MR. HOLSTON: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
49 Just from the Cooper Landing area we have -- I know of

50

1 a number of bear baiting stations in the Cooper Landing  
2 area, but I'm not aware of any problems that have  
3 resulted from bear baiting stations. In other words,  
4 bears moving into the local community and creating  
5 problems that way.

6  
7 So I'm in support of this.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

10  
11 Go ahead, Ricky.

12  
13 MR. GEASE: In response to Judy's  
14 question, yes. I've used -- hunted on bear baiting  
15 stations on the Kenai Peninsula. Yes. We have used  
16 dog food and, you know, used, you know, molasses as a  
17 scent. And I think the definition of scent is good,  
18 you know, and I have -- I question -- in our area, in  
19 the City of Kenai, yes, we've had -- you know, I have a  
20 trash container that's bear proof. We've done a lot of  
21 education on bear proofing communities.

22  
23 I think it's a separate issue with bear  
24 baiting stations.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

27  
28 Well, I'll give you a couple of  
29 information here.

30  
31 Go ahead, Daniel.

32  
33 MR. STEVENS: You know, I don't do any  
34 bear baiting, but when I was growing up I used to see  
35 them all over in my village -- or not in my village.  
36 Because I don't recall Chitina ever bear baiting. But  
37 I've seen up in Copper Center and Tazlina they had them  
38 like 20 feet away from their house and never worried  
39 about the bears attacking their houses and stuff by  
40 being food -- human food conditioned. I don't think  
41 we've ever had a problem at bear baitings in our area  
42 for whatever they use. But I don't see how it could be  
43 a -- bear conditioning be a problem.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I would  
46 just make a comment. I do know that in the Ninilchik  
47 area -- and of course this is State land -- we do have  
48 a few people that bear bait and we do allow bear  
49 baiting on some of the Native land and they do some

50

1 hunting there for personal use and for baiting. And  
2 actually it's controlled quite well. And I'll be  
3 honest. I think it's actually helping the moose  
4 population. It's kept it down. It's out in kind of a  
5 -- you know, a far out area. And I think it's kind of  
6 helped the community in some. We have several  
7 registered there.

8  
9 And I will speak a little bit to law  
10 enforcement. I don't know how -- you know, we talk  
11 about that a little bit, but I do know that, you know,  
12 if they're monitored right and they're controlled that  
13 it doesn't seem to be a problem.

14  
15 We had one local trooper. I'm not  
16 going to give his name. But I seen him out at the road  
17 -- on the Oil Well Road one day and he's walking down  
18 the road and I come around the corner and I could see  
19 him going -- sniff -- in the air like this. And I'm  
20 going what the hell is going on. He had a report of  
21 someone putting out bait and was sniffing. Too close  
22 to the road and he was looking for them to bust them.  
23 They actually got them up on the highway system.

24  
25 But, you know, I don't know. The bears  
26 -- I believe that you could take a bear without bait.  
27 But I support the bear baiting, too, so whatever.

28  
29 Judy.

30  
31 MS. CAMINER: Well, I guess I was just  
32 interested if anybody had used the biodegradable scent  
33 product at all. I mean I know people do bear bait and  
34 that's certainly allowed. And this is just asking for  
35 that one part of the change, so I just wondered if  
36 people had experience with that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Are donuts  
39 biodegradable.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
44 Chair. I've used what they call the scent ball. It's  
45 essentially like a large piece of hard candy. But a  
46 bear on a bait will destroy that in one, you know. And  
47 so you can -- you know, I cook these up and use them.  
48 You know, and you lift it up into a tree so it can't be  
49 reached, you know, between two.

50

1 But at the end of season, the way the  
2 laws are, you have to remove all. I mean you can't  
3 have any scent. Even infected dirt. Everything has to  
4 go from that area when season's over, you know. And I  
5 can say they smell it from downwind and come.

6  
7 And I believe it gives you a selection  
8 of which, you know. If oh, that bear's a little too  
9 small, you know. Oh, that's a sow. You can pick a  
10 boar. You know, if you're a good hunter, this gives  
11 you an opportunity to be very selective about what  
12 you're going to do and the scent certainly works.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
15 comments.

16  
17 Go ahead, Tom.

18  
19 MR. EVANS: Just a quick clarification.  
20 Andy was asking about the distance and under the  
21 Federal regulations it's a mile from any place -- any  
22 inhabitable place. So.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's hard to find  
25 anymore.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We have a  
30 motion. We have a second. Did we call the question.

31  
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Call the question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been  
35 called for. All in favor of the proposal, aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

40  
41 (No opposing votes)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So carries.  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 Go ahead, Donald.

47  
48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I was requested  
49 that we take a short break and get our technical.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Technical  
2 difficulties, Nate, doesn't have any do you?

3  
4 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)

5  
6 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the screen --  
7 screen situated. So if we take a short break, we'll be  
8 good to go.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Get some  
13 coffee, take a short break, and we'll.....

14  
15 MR. EVANS: Could I ask a quick  
16 question before you guys so.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure, Tom.

19  
20 MR. EVANS: Was that approved, as  
21 modified by OSM, or.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

24  
25 MR. EVANS: Yes. Okay. Okay. Okay.

26  
27 (Off record)

28  
29 (On record)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to  
32 move on to our presentations. Okay. We're back and  
33 we're going to start with our Fish Resource Monitoring  
34 Program. And I think Robbin's going to go ahead and  
35 take us through that.

36  
37 We'll get out of the way here and go  
38 back where we can see.

39  
40 MS. LA VINE: All right. Good morning,  
41 Mr. Chair and Members of the Council. My name is  
42 Robbin La Vine and I'm an anthropologist for the  
43 Southcentral Region of Alaska. And Scott Ayers is my  
44 fisheries associate also for the Southcentral Region of  
45 Alaska.

46  
47 And today we will be presenting you  
48 with a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource  
49 Monitoring Program and its accomplishments to date.

50

1 I'll review the funding process, your regional  
2 overview, and finish up by requesting your comments on  
3 the proposed 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
4 for the Southcentral and multi-regions. No motion is  
5 necessary.

6  
7 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
8 Program materials starts on page 214 of your Council  
9 books. In addition, I will be passing out an  
10 information packet for the multi-region overview.

11  
12 And it's over there at the table.

13  
14 All right.

15  
16 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
17 Program is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative effort  
18 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and  
19 provides necessary information for the management of  
20 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in  
21 Alaska. We encourage partnerships between Tribes,  
22 rural organizations, universities, and Federal and  
23 State agencies. In addition, we encourage  
24 interdisciplinary approaches to conducting research and  
25 addressing issues.

26  
27 The Monitoring Program is administered  
28 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order  
29 to advance projects of strategic importance to the  
30 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also  
31 coordinates communications and information sharing of  
32 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts. Since  
33 its inception in 2000 the Monitoring Program has funded  
34 452 projects statewide with the total allocation of  
35 close to \$117 million.

36  
37 The figures on this slide demonstrate  
38 both the allocation of funds and the number of projects  
39 funded through the Monitoring Program by the  
40 organization of the principle investigator. And it  
41 should be noted that some of these funds have been used  
42 by principle investigators to subcontract with research  
43 partners, such as communities, Tribes, and other  
44 research organizations.

45  
46 This slide demonstrates the allocation  
47 of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an  
48 initial target for planning; however, they are not  
49 final and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that  
50

1 we fund quality projects.

2

3 I'll now review with you five steps to  
4 the FRMP funding process that spans a two-year cycle.  
5 So the State is divided into six regions that  
6 approximately correspond to Federal subsistence  
7 fisheries areas and to stock, harvest, and community  
8 issues that those areas hold in common.

9

10 Step 1. For each of the six regions,  
11 Office of Subsistence Management staff works with  
12 Regional Advisory Councils and Federal and State  
13 fishery and land managers to ensure the monitoring  
14 program focuses on the highest priority subsistence  
15 fishery information needs. Input and guidance from  
16 Councils are used to develop priority information needs  
17 by identifying issues of local concern and knowledge  
18 gaps related to subsistence fisheries.

19

20 Ideally, principle investigators will  
21 work closely with Councils in order to develop strong  
22 proposals that are responsive to those needs. The  
23 Office of Subsistence Management provides technical  
24 assistance as needed.

25

26 Step 2. The program requests new  
27 projects every two years. Submissions must be  
28 complete, on time, and address five criteria outlined  
29 in the notice of funding opportunity in order to be  
30 competitive. Those criteria are strategic priority,  
31 technical scientific merit, investigator ability and  
32 resources, partnership and capacity building, and the  
33 cost benefit of the project. A more detailed  
34 description of the five criteria can be found on page  
35 219 of your Council books.

36

37 Step 3. Once submitted, a technical  
38 review committee evaluates and rates each proposed  
39 project. The technical review committee is a standing  
40 interagency committee of senior technical experts  
41 brought together to ensure program transparency. It is  
42 the responsibility of the technical review committee to  
43 develop the strongest possible monitoring program for  
44 your region and across the State based on high quality,  
45 cost effective projects that address critical  
46 subsistence questions.

47

48 During the proposal evaluation process  
49 the technical review committee adheres to specific

50

1 guidelines in order to assess how well a project  
2 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies may  
3 have more than one senior expert on the committee, like  
4 a social scientist or a fisheries biologist, each  
5 agency only provides one, single consolidated review  
6 and will not score their own proposals. The final  
7 score for each proposal is based on an assessment of  
8 the five criteria.

9  
10 Step 4. Once a draft monitoring plan  
11 is developed it is brought before the Regional Advisory  
12 Councils for their input and comments. And this is  
13 where we are today. This is where are in our two-year  
14 cycle and we'll get back to this step in a moment.

15  
16 Additional comments on the process in  
17 draft 2018 fisheries monitoring plan in the  
18 Southcentral Alaska and multi-regions are provided by  
19 the interagency staff committee. And these along with  
20 those comments developed by the councils are then  
21 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board  
22 takes into consideration comments and concerns  
23 generated by the process and endorses the funding plan.  
24 Final approval of the funding plan is made by the  
25 assistant regional director of OSM.

26  
27 So in your region, Southcentral of  
28 Alaska, 49 projects have been undertaken since 2000 for  
29 approximately \$14.1 million in funding. Project leads  
30 were predominantly held by the Department of  
31 Agriculture, State of Alaska or the Alaska rural  
32 organizations. You can find a list of those 49  
33 projects on page 231 of your Council books.

34  
35 Okay. For 2018, the Department of the  
36 Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
37 will provide an anticipated one to one and a half  
38 million in funding for new projects and up to 1.6  
39 million for ongoing projects that were initially funded  
40 in 2016. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through  
41 the U.S. Forest Service, has historically provided 1.8  
42 million annually.

43  
44 The Department of Agriculture funding  
45 available for 2018 projects is uncertain. Please note  
46 that the available funding for 2018 is budgeted for  
47 each project's first year and not the total project  
48 request. For the Southcentral Alaska region, seven  
49 projects were submitted. The projects are listed in  
50



1 order by the strength of their technical review  
2 committee scores. Justification for project order  
3 begin on page 225 of your Council books and project  
4 abstracts begin on page 233.

5  
6 You may want to note that these  
7 projects were submitted in response to the priority  
8 information needs that we reviewed with you last fall.  
9 And those can be found on page 223 of your Council  
10 books.

11  
12 In the multi-region category 16  
13 projects have been undertaken for approximately two and  
14 a half million in funding over the course of this  
15 program. Project leads were predominantly held by the  
16 State of Alaska. And you can refer to your handout for  
17 more information on the multi-region.

18  
19 For the multi-region category, two  
20 projects were submitted. The projects are listed in  
21 order by the strength of their technical review  
22 committee scores. Justifications for project order  
23 began on page four of the handout and project abstracts  
24 can be found on page seven.

25  
26 So once again we are here at step 4 of  
27 the FRMP funding process. We are looking for your  
28 input and comments on the draft monitoring plan for  
29 your region. No motion is necessary, but there are  
30 some points for you to consider when reviewing the  
31 seven projects submitted to your region or the two  
32 submitted for the multi-region categories. And that  
33 might be project alignment with the priority  
34 information needs that you reviewed last fall, proposal  
35 score order, proposal abstracts. You can also comment  
36 on the overall process.

37  
38 Thank you, Chair and Council.

39  
40 I'm ready for your comments.

41  
42 MS. SELANOFF: With these projects,  
43 where could I find a summation or the actions on these  
44 for the projects.

45  
46 MS. LA VINE: Through the Chair. Which  
47 page are you on?

48  
49 MS. SELANOFF: I'm on page 232. So  
50

1 it's 231 and 232. Where can I find the projects and  
2 what they all involved?

3  
4 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
5 Chair. If you look at the projects funded for the  
6 Southcentral Region and -- and they -- all those listed  
7 begin on page 231. The first thing you can do to kind  
8 of walk your way through it is figure out the numbering  
9 -- how we number.

10  
11 So when you see 00-013, that 00  
12 indicates the year 2000.

13  
14 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. Okay.

15  
16 MS. LA VINE: So any projects from 00  
17 were begun.....

18  
19 MS. SELANOFF: Okay.

20  
21 MS. LA VINE: .....in the year 2000.  
22 01 begun in the year 2001, et cetera.

23  
24 MS. SELANOFF: Okay.

25  
26 MS. LA VINE: Pretty much all of these  
27 -- until you get to any that start with 16, pretty much  
28 all of those have been wrapped up and completed over  
29 the course of the program. And those reports -- those  
30 final reports and the results of these efforts we have  
31 available at the Office of Subsistence Management.

32  
33 And you can contact either Scott or I  
34 and we will ensure that you have a copy of these  
35 reports.

36  
37 MS. SELANOFF: Are they online anywhere  
38 where I can just go look them up?

39  
40 MS. LA VINE: They are in most cases  
41 not online. Some of them if they are an Alaska  
42 Department of Fish and Game technical paper, then they  
43 will have them listed online. You can also order them  
44 through the library system. They are available through  
45 ARLIS. But we can send you a digital copy -- a PDF  
46 copy of the report as well, if you would like to  
47 receive them digitally and not in hard copy.

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Thank you.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

4  
5 Judy.

6  
7 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you. A  
8 few questions again for our newer members. On page 223  
9 is a list of the priority information needs that the  
10 Council identified last year and in previous years, I  
11 guess, too. So I guess do you know a reason why there  
12 may not be, you know, Kenai or Kasilof proposals that  
13 were included in -- submitted by researchers?

14  
15 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
16 Chair. The seven projects that you see listed for this  
17 year are all the projects that were submitted. And so  
18 when I discuss or say that, you know, through the  
19 course of the two-year cycle that principle  
20 investigators could be working with the Council to  
21 develop strong proposals in response to the priority  
22 information needs, that could have been happening,  
23 could be happening, but no one submitted a proposal to  
24 response to those priority information needs.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

29  
30 MR. GEASE: Well, it's just interesting  
31 because the Alaska Board of Fisheries indicated to the  
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game that priority --  
33 king salmon information on the Kasilof was a high  
34 priority for that. That there was a gap of information  
35 on kings on the Kasilof.

36  
37 They've spent the last six years doing  
38 I think a really great job of showing out the accuracy  
39 and precision of the king salmon monitoring on the  
40 Kenai River, but it's just interesting that both this  
41 RAC and the Board of Fisheries indicated that king  
42 salmon issues on the Kasilof were a high priority and  
43 nothing was submitted.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Robbin.

46  
47 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
48 Chair. As we go through this two-year process -- and  
49 we may be developing -- begin to develop the next

50

1 funding cycle's priority information needs probably in  
2 the spring and then finalizing them by next fall, a  
3 year from -- you know, this fall. You have the  
4 opportunity to keep track of those issues of most  
5 importance in your region, any information gaps that  
6 really move forward, and you can begin -- we can begin  
7 to document those issues and priority information needs  
8 of most interest to the Council.  
9

10 So here now is -- we can start  
11 documenting your -- those needs.  
12

13 Thank you.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, you  
16 could document that one. That gap on the Kasilof and  
17 track it.  
18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Diane.  
20

21 MS. SELANOFF: Can we -- is it possible  
22 for us to get a list of all of the ones that were  
23 considered and then the ones that were prioritized and  
24 why? So just to have kind of an idea of what was --  
25 you know, what was all presented and why they weren't  
26 -- why they didn't make the final cut, I suppose.  
27

28 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
29 Chair. These are all of the proposals that were  
30 submitted. So we've not cut away any. The list that  
31 you find -- the seven proposals for your consideration  
32 are all the proposals that were submitted for this  
33 cycle.  
34

35 Right now what we're looking for is  
36 your comments on those seven proposals, those seven  
37 projects. Which ones you think really address the  
38 priority information needs that were developed a year  
39 ago or reviewed a year ago. And again remembering that  
40 this year the funds on hand for the entire State are 1  
41 to \$1.6 million divided up among the first year budgets  
42 of each project.  
43

44 So not all of -- you know, not all the  
45 projects are going to get funded. We're going to be  
46 looking at a small amount. When you look at your seven  
47 projects, definitely they're not all going to fly.  
48

49 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. All right.  
50

1                               Thanks for the education on that  
2 process.

3  
4                               CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

5  
6                               MS. CAMINER: Well, I'll ask something  
7 I know you're probably not able to answer. Maybe you  
8 can give us some hints though.

9  
10                              As you recall, two years ago we went  
11 through a lengthy process of evaluating proposals and  
12 none of them were funded. So -- and we could tell some  
13 of that ahead of time, I suppose, by reading through  
14 the lines.

15  
16                              I mean in this case, maybe aside from  
17 the proposal that scored number one, every other one  
18 has some sort of negative comment in there. Is that an  
19 indicator of how cuts may be made later on or do you  
20 anticipate any funding for Southcentral projects?

21  
22                              CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a good  
23 question.

24  
25                              Go ahead, Robbin.

26  
27                              MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
28 Chair. It really -- we generally target -- a certain  
29 amount we try to hold in reserve for each region to  
30 make sure that funding are properly distributed and  
31 that all of the priority information needs statewide --  
32 some of the most critical are addressed. It doesn't  
33 mean that we will be funding projects that are not  
34 competitive in regards to all of the merits, all of the  
35 criteria that we look at.

36  
37                              That being said, there are some really  
38 strong projects for Southcentral Region and it's -- we  
39 are again looking for your comments. When we -- when  
40 the final plan moves before the Board, Council comments  
41 can really help.

42  
43                              Thank you.

44  
45                              CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Rick. You  
46 get to make a list of comments.

47  
48                              Thank you.

49  
50

1 MR. GEASE: So on looking at the first  
2 project, which was the highest scored project,  
3 estimating in-river abundance of Copper River chinook  
4 salmon, was the Native Village of Eyak able to find  
5 matching money of the \$200,000 that is currently  
6 unfunded?

7  
8 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
9 Gease, yeah. I was just speaking with Mr. Piche, who's  
10 here representing NVE's program for this project, and I  
11 believe that he's got more to provide to us on that  
12 front. But it sounds as though things are promising at  
13 this point in time.

14  
15 I'll let him give the additional  
16 information.

17  
18 MR. GEASE: Okay.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Do you want to  
21 come up and give a.....

22  
23 MR. PICHE: For the record, my name is  
24 Matt Piche. I am the natural resources coordinator and  
25 fish biologist for the Native Village of Eyak.

26  
27 And Through the Chair, Council Member  
28 Gease, yes, we received -- we just received  
29 notification that we obtained Alaska sustainable  
30 funding which will cover the remaining portion of the  
31 budget if we are successful in obtaining FRMP funds.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

36  
37 MR. GEASE: So is that four years worth  
38 of funding? Because this seems to be a four-year  
39 project.

40  
41 MR. PICHE: The Alaska sustainable  
42 salmon fund will cover three years of funding, so that  
43 fourth year we will still have a portion of the budget  
44 that's unfunded.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Well, certainly the first  
4 five -- you know, they are continuing projects. We're  
5 real familiar with them. I think we're -- we've been  
6 pretty happy with the work that's been done and the  
7 information provided.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh. That's  
10 good feedback to note.

11

12 Any other comments or.....

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: So these six are going  
19 to be funded? Seven? I don't understand. I'm  
20 confused, I guess. Which ones are going to be funded?  
21 I see amounts beside them, which made me think that  
22 they're going to be funded.

23

24 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
25 Chair. So what we're looking at first. If you look --  
26 these projects are listed in the order of their scores  
27 through the technical review committee. No projects  
28 have been funded statewide yet. We're in the process  
29 of considering them. And the first step in the process  
30 was to have them go through the technical review  
31 committee that then looking at the five criteria, the  
32 score order that you see to the left is how they are  
33 going to be moved forward to the Board. There are --  
34 again, there are no other projects listed for the  
35 Southcentral Region.

36

37 If you look at the columns, on the  
38 righthand side of this table, you see the total project  
39 request.

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: 224?

42

43 MS. LA VINE: Hmm?

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: You're on page 224?

46

47 MS. LA VINE: 224. Yes. So if you --  
48 there's two columns. Total project request and the  
49 annual average request. What we're really interested

50

1 in for the moment is the average annual request.  
2 That's basically the -- kind of a target for first year  
3 funding for each project. And this is not a guarantee.  
4 This is just the -- it's good to take that column into  
5 consideration when we look at what projects are going  
6 to be funded and how we are going to divvy up the one  
7 to one and a half million dollars statewide for all the  
8 projects submitted. And once again, we're here for  
9 your comments and -- on that process.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Comments are lack  
14 of funding, but go ahead, Ricky. And then we'll go  
15 to.....

16

17 Go ahead, Andy, then.

18

19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you.  
20 Through the Chair. Just curious of this -- the  
21 committee that reviews these and scores them or  
22 whatnot. So could you expand on why like something it  
23 seems like smaller, like Ibeck Creek or Long Lake --  
24 very refined and in a very specific location to a  
25 smaller fishery would get a higher score than something  
26 like the Upper Copper River that's more of a bird's eye  
27 view. Hey, this would give us -- if our funding is  
28 limited, it seems like the more scoring or focus should  
29 go towards something that's a larger region, wide  
30 coverage than something small.

31

32 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
33 Chair. When we come up with -- the five criteria  
34 cannot be morphed, changed, moved depending on funding,  
35 et cetera. We're looking at -- we're looking at the  
36 technical and scientific merit on page 219. So if you  
37 look at 219.

38

39 And how this works is each of those  
40 five criteria are weighted basically equally. And so  
41 you can look at a small project with -- you know, in a  
42 small target area, but if it beautifully addresses a  
43 priority information need, if it has strong capacity  
44 building and partnerships written in, if it has got a  
45 really cost effective budget and its technical and  
46 scientific merit, you know, and its investigator  
47 capacity is really strong, it's going to fly as opposed  
48 to let's say -- yeah, the -- you know, a -- hmm -- a  
49 project that addresses a really critical information

50



1 need, but potentially may not have any partnerships  
2 involved, potentially does not use -- has not utilized  
3 a budget effectively or funds effectively. We're  
4 looking at so many different things when this order --  
5 this score order is generated.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Before Rick goes,  
10 well, our priorities are a little more simple. But  
11 anyway, that's a.....

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We look at the  
16 uses.

17  
18 Go ahead, Rick.

19  
20 MR. GEASE: I'd like to just put on the  
21 record just a comment. Thanks to the other members,  
22 Gloria and Judy, for participating in the fisheries --  
23 what we've done as a subcommittee on this.

24  
25 I think it's been very helpful.

26  
27 I'd like to say congratulations to  
28 Native Village of Eyak on going out and finding the  
29 matching funds. That was a big, big step for them to  
30 find the matching funds. It's gratifying to hear that  
31 they were successful going out and finding that  
32 funding.

33  
34 In years past for Council members, the  
35 whole project was funded through this, so 400,000. So  
36 it's quite an accomplishment to find matching 50  
37 percent funding on that. And congratulations to them.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

40  
41 Any other feedback, comments.

42  
43 Gloria, go ahead.

44  
45 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that  
46 abundance and timing of -- what is it -- run timing of  
47 salmon in Tanada Creek. That's the first salmon that  
48 goes up the Copper River. And Katie John started  
49 because of this, because she wasn't getting fish up

50

1 there. That tells us how many fish are mating,  
2 spawning grounds or early run during May. I don't know  
3 why it scored so low. It's been a longtime successful  
4 project.

5  
6 The one for the -- to get information  
7 between sonar count in Glennallen. I mean there's no  
8 way to tell how many fish are being harvested. There's  
9 no sonar. It just tells how many fish are going up the  
10 river, but you don't know how many fish are being  
11 harvested, how many reach the spawning grounds other  
12 than the few streams they study.

13  
14 So I don't know why these are so low.

15  
16 I mean I just -- I disagree with the  
17 way this was -- and whose local concern is this. Is  
18 this just Fish and Game's local concern. Is it -- what  
19 do you mean by local concern. You say criteria is a  
20 local concern. Whose local concern is that. Are you  
21 guys just taking Fish and Game's local concern or --  
22 you say the criteria 219 is local concern. Because it  
23 has been a local concern for us for years and years and  
24 we stated that for years.

25  
26 That inadequate data is being -- not  
27 getting between -- for our area. We don't -- we  
28 believe fish are being over harvested and it's not  
29 being -- other than there's yearly reports that people  
30 probably don't fill out right every day that they catch  
31 them, which are probably inaccurate.

32  
33 Somebody needs to be monitoring these.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Do you want to  
36 make a comment there, Daniel, first?

37  
38 MR. STEVENS: Yeah. I'd like to ask a  
39 question. On 219 you've got these criterias. Are they  
40 in order of what's -- as in Federal jurisdiction is  
41 number one. Number two, are they in priority order?  
42 Priority list, if you understand what I mean?

43  
44 MS. LA VINE: Yes. Thank you. Through  
45 the Chair. No. They're not in any particular  
46 priority. As far as -- so if anyone wants to look at  
47 what we're talking about, it's on page 219 of our  
48 Council books.

49  
50

1 MR. STEVENS: Right.

2

3 MS. LA VINE: And under one of the five  
4 criteria, the first called strategic priorities. And  
5 these are the topics that help us qualify for the  
6 rating process. What a strategic priority may address.  
7 It doesn't mean local concern being the last on the  
8 bullet list. It doesn't mean that that is of least  
9 concern.

10

11 Demonstrating local, Federally  
12 qualified subsistence user interest in a particular  
13 issue is critical to the priority information need  
14 development process. It often becomes -- these are --  
15 the priority information needs are developed and  
16 approved and finalized through the Council and we look  
17 to you for your local knowledge and expertise on what  
18 is important to our stakeholders in your area.

19

20 So it starts with you.

21

22 And then to respond to Gloria in  
23 regards to low ratings versus high ratings, this list  
24 of seven projects may not necessarily -- it may not  
25 necessarily indicate a low rating. It just means that  
26 some projects in regards to how they were reviewed are  
27 going to just edge out some of the others. It doesn't  
28 mean it was rated low just because it's number five on  
29 this list.

30

31 And having you forward your comments  
32 and your concern about Tanada Creek and the run timing  
33 of salmon on Tanada Creek, it's important to develop a  
34 record of that and it's important to forward those  
35 comments to the Board.

36

37 MS. STICKWAN: I just think we need in-  
38 season data gathering as well because we have no idea  
39 how many salmon are -- other than Tanada Creek how many  
40 are being harvested. And there's just no in-season  
41 management for the Copper River.

42

43 That's a concern.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah,  
46 there's a lot of concern here. I would ask the  
47 Council, do we agree with the score order on page 224.

48

49 MS. STICKWAN: I just did.

50

1                   Yeah. I got your feedback. Good. And  
2 I highlighted it. See this big, red thing right there?

3  
4                   MS. CAMINER: Dan has something.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Dan.

7  
8                   MR. STEVENS: There's one creek. The  
9 Ibeck Creek. I don't really realize where that would  
10 be located.

11  
12                  UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -  
13 away from mic)

14  
15                  MR. STEVENS: Okay. Yeah. I disagree  
16 with your list of priorities. I believe that -- I  
17 agree with Gloria that we should be looking at the  
18 upper river fisheries first because they are our first  
19 fish to come up. So they go all the way up.

20  
21                  And then when you've got Long Lake --  
22 Long Lake is before the upper river fisheries and there  
23 really isn't any fish coming out of -- being fished out  
24 of the Long Lake run, except for where the charters  
25 are. Because everything cuts off at the Chitina River  
26 and it goes up -- they go up the Chitina River.

27  
28                  So they're not even part of our  
29 fisheries basically. A part. They're got some part in  
30 the charters, but not where we use for subsistence.

31  
32                  Thank you.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good feedback.  
35 Good, good feedback.

36  
37                  Any more.

38  
39                  Ricky, go ahead.

40  
41                  MR. GEASE: On your second one, the  
42 last sentence on the Gulkana River sockeye salmon  
43 harvest contribution.

44  
45                  MS. LA VINE: What page.

46  
47                  MR. GEASE: Page 227. The top, last  
48 sentence. It says the investigator is encouraged to  
49 further develop how this project will help subsistence

50

1 management. Was that ever fleshed out or is this just  
2 a project that is an important information need that is  
3 tangential to subsistence management? Because we are  
4 talking about subsistence management here, so it --  
5 curious.

6  
7 MR. GEASE: Thank you, Mr. Gease.  
8 Through the Chair. The justifications for the project  
9 scoring are meant to help the principle investigators  
10 as they develop competitive proposals. So sometimes it  
11 may be very obvious and very apparent how a project --  
12 how important a project is to priority information  
13 needs in an area or to fisheries managers and  
14 management, but they don't address it in the proposal.

15  
16 And say for example something  
17 devastating happened and we had a number of new senior  
18 experts at the technical review committee. Very  
19 unlikely, but regardless we want folks to be able to  
20 clearly explain how their project may serve fisheries  
21 management.

22  
23 We've had projects who we know the  
24 principle investigators -- we may know that they work  
25 closely with local communities and they have  
26 partnerships and yet nothing in their proposal reflects  
27 that. We tell them to demonstrate clearly for us that  
28 they are actually addressing some of these five  
29 criteria.

30  
31 And it can't be simply known to the  
32 reviewers if it's not fully explained in a proposal.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Robbin, it  
37 sounds to me like you've gotten some pretty good  
38 feedback from the Council, so maybe we could -- that  
39 would help. We definitely hear more of a cry for --  
40 just a minute. We've got here a cry for the Kenai in  
41 the Kasilof area. You've had some very good feedback  
42 here and I would like to move on.

43  
44 So I'm not sure short of a longer  
45 workshop, but the Council's wishes to write comments.  
46 And Gloria, you have comments -- a lot of good comments  
47 here, so -- Dan gave you some very good stuff that --  
48 how we should look at the river.

1 So what else. Would you like to make  
2 another comment, Andy? Go ahead.

3  
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chair. Just real quick here. Just kind of an ending  
6 comment.

7  
8 The testing of the unmanned aircraft  
9 system seems like very valid. I would bump that up if  
10 there was a possibility to do that. It's far reaching.  
11 Say even -- you know, if they're focusing on one  
12 drainage, right. They're going to do like a little  
13 pilot project for this one and just try to figure that  
14 out, it would help like Y-K on some drainage or  
15 something.

16  
17 It's a far reaching, big scope of  
18 benefit from learning a new methodology that's just --  
19 it seems like that's really important in the scheme of  
20 salmon returns statewide. Yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

23  
24 Go ahead, Dan.

25  
26 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

27  
28 MR. STEVENS: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

29  
30 MS. STICKWAN: Because you're looking  
31 for how -- personally, me. My thought would be number  
32 one. Because it's being supported by Eyak. Number  
33 five and number six would -- in that order would be my  
34 priorities. And then the rest however.

35  
36 So if you're looking for feedback on  
37 these, that's mine.

38  
39 And I would like to contribute more  
40 because we have fisheries in Port Graham and Nanwalek  
41 that are in desperate need of assistance, too. So I  
42 would like to meet with you further about how we can  
43 get some projects going in that area.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.  
46 You've got a good start here.

47  
48 Thank you, guys.

49  
50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, go ahead.  
4

5 MS. STICKWAN: Are you going to  
6 continue that work group for in the future?  
7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy had a  
9 question. Go ahead and ask that.  
10

11 MS. CAMINER: Do you want comments on  
12 this multi-regional overview? Is that why you gave it  
13 to us also?  
14

15 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
16 Chair. Yes. If you have any comments on the two  
17 projects that are encompassed by the multi-region, we  
18 can take those comments as well.  
19

20 Thank you.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.  
23

24 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, my  
25 question would be have we -- has the Fisheries Resource  
26 Management Program ever funded OSM before to do  
27 projects?  
28

29 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the  
30 Chair. No, I don't believe so. Thank you.  
31

32 MS. CAMINER: I'm not sure I would  
33 support that part of it just being a Federal agency.  
34

35 Thank you.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,  
38 Robbin. We'll go on. And we -- hopefully, we covered  
39 that.  
40

41 Okay.  
42

43 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donald.  
46

47 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Earlier I --  
48 yesterday I spoke at the Native Village of Eyak. They  
49 would like to present its partners information program  
50

1 to this Council after the FRMP, if Mr. Piche is ready.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead.

4

5 MR. PICHE: Hello. My name is Matt  
6 Piche. I am the partners program fish biologist and  
7 natural resources coordinator for the Native Village of  
8 Eyak in Cordova.

9

10 To give a brief background on the  
11 history of king salmon monitoring on the Copper River  
12 for new Council members, since 2003 the Native Village  
13 of Eyak has been responsible for estimating in river  
14 abundance of Copper River king salmon. This project  
15 uses well established and independently verified two  
16 sample mark/recapture techniques and statistical  
17 analysis to determine the number of king salmon passing  
18 through Baird Canyon, utilizing research style  
19 fishwheels to capture, tag, and release king salmon.

20

21 Prior to 2003, ADF&G used similar mark  
22 or capture techniques, but used boat based dipnetting  
23 for the first sample event and the Chitina dipnet  
24 fishery for the recovery event to estimate abundance  
25 from 1999 to 2003. Prior to 1999, aerial escapement  
26 indices over clear water tributaries and catch age  
27 modeling were used to estimate escapement indices over  
28 clear water tribs. This method has since been deemed  
29 inaccurate following radiotelemetry studies determining  
30 that index streams represented only a small portion of  
31 the overall king salmon abundance. Therefore, no  
32 system-wide escapement data exists on the Copper River  
33 prior to 1999.

34

35 The only data we have prior to 1999 in  
36 king salmon are harvest estimates.

37

38 The two sample mark/recapture method is  
39 a widely accepted technique used for estimating  
40 population sizes when absolute counts are impractical.  
41 Due to the nature of the Copper River, mark/recapture  
42 techniques are the most accurate currently available  
43 method for assessing system-wide king salmon abundance.

44

45 So for our 2017 results, from May 15th  
46 through July 11th 3,819 king salmon received a primary  
47 and a secondary mark at Baird Canyon and 1,645 were  
48 examined for marks at our Canyon Creek camp. Of the  
49 1,645 examined, 180 king salmon were marked. Based on

50



1 these results, the 2017 in-river abundance estimate of  
2 Copper River king salmon is 40,725, with a standard  
3 error of 4,187, a lower confidence interval of 32,520,  
4 and an upper confidence interval of 48,931.

5  
6 This represents chinook salmon  
7 migrating through Baird Canyon through May 15th to July  
8 11th that measure 448 millimeters mid-eye to fork  
9 length or greater. This is an abundance estimate only  
10 and not an absolute count, meaning the value was  
11 calculated using statistics and a durak estimator.

12  
13 Based on the confidence interval, it  
14 can be stated that we are 95 percent confident that the  
15 true population value lies between 32,520 and 48,931  
16 king salmon. And again the in-river abundance estimate  
17 is 40,725 with a standard error of 4,187.

18  
19 Overall, that's a very strong run  
20 compared to last year.

21  
22 NVE reports the in-river abundance  
23 estimate and its associated error every year to all  
24 Copper River fishery managers, the Southcentral  
25 Regional Advisory Council, and OSM. From this in-river  
26 abundance estimate, Federal and State harvest is  
27 subtracted. Federal and State in-river harvest is  
28 subtracted by ADF&G to publish a system-wide escapement  
29 estimate. Conversely, ocean flats harvest is added to  
30 the in-river abundance estimate by ADF&G to publish the  
31 annual total run size estimate.

32  
33 Thus far, NVE's mark/recapture program  
34 has exceeded established precision goals every year.

35  
36 There has been an awful lot of concern  
37 regarding the accuracy of ADF&G's preseason forecast,  
38 so I just wanted to remind the Council that the Copper  
39 River king salmon data set is still in its infancy,  
40 with only 15 years of in-river abundance using  
41 concurrent methods. This is a relatively small  
42 database compared to 40-plus years of Copper River  
43 sockeye abundance or 32 years of Kenai king salmon  
44 abundance, so -- and also during this time the range of  
45 escapement has been relatively small.

46  
47 So due to the narrow range of  
48 escapement during this relatively short period of data  
49 collection, the forecast predictions and models drawn  
50

1 from this data are limited in their accuracy. These  
2 factors contribute to the variance and forecast  
3 estimates, as does the error associated with the  
4 abundance estimate and harvest estimates.

5  
6 I also wanted to update the Council  
7 that in an effort to better understand and potentially  
8 improve upon the ADF&G preseason forecasting methods  
9 for Copper River king salmon, NVE contracted a third-  
10 party fisheries biometrician from LGL to conduct an  
11 independent analysis of the modeling methods used for  
12 the 2017 forecast. This independent analysis has been  
13 completed and has since been shared with the Copper  
14 River commercial fisheries division managers.

15  
16 This type of open data sharing and  
17 independent analysis is a critical part of scientific  
18 advancement.

19  
20 For example, in the past NVE has  
21 conducted a study to independently validate the Miles  
22 Lake sockeye sonar counts after they were switched to  
23 DIDSON. And conversely ADF&G independently had  
24 validated many of NVE's mark recapture study  
25 assumptions. NVE participates in and encourages this  
26 type of critical analysis and we are hopeful that NVE  
27 and ADF&G can continue to assist one another with the  
28 goal of improving our knowledge of Copper River salmon  
29 towards a common goal of sustainable fisheries for all  
30 user groups.

31  
32 And lastly, to update and inform the  
33 Council on where things are headed for Copper River  
34 king salmon management, salmon species ID using sonar  
35 is being investigated on the Copper River by both NVE  
36 and ADF&G. NVE began working towards this transition  
37 several years ago and database sharing between the two  
38 organizations is taking place.

39  
40 In 2017, ADF&G borrowed two ARIS 1800  
41 units and began familiarizing themselves with the new  
42 systems at Miles Lake. NVE has also purchased one ARIS  
43 model 1800 sonar to develop both a length frequency  
44 analysis and a large fish species ID. These processes  
45 will utilize biometrics of sockeye and king salmon  
46 obtained using ARIS sonar and actual measurements of  
47 the imaged fish on our fishwheel platforms beginning in  
48 2018. This biometric data combined with sonar data and  
49 genetics data will provide insight on differences

1 between the multiple Copper River king salmon stocks,  
2 thus measuring variation in biometric and sonar based  
3 stock specific length.  
4

5 We will also be testing the read range  
6 efficiencies of ARIS within the Copper River waters to  
7 determine the appropriate maximum distances for length  
8 based identification. NVE's sonar data paired with  
9 ADF&G Miles Lake data may provide the opportunity for a  
10 switch to sonar estimates hopefully within the next  
11 four years.  
12

13 If and when king salmon sonar counts  
14 are developed on the Copper, it should known that this  
15 value will be an estimate only and not an absolute  
16 passage value due to the counting methodology and the  
17 fact that full coverage of the channel is impossible at  
18 the Miles Lake site. While NVE and ADF&G are very  
19 helpful, the ARIS sonar is the future of Copper River  
20 king salmon management.  
21

22 It should be noted that the Copper  
23 River presents major obstacles that are not present on  
24 any other Alaskan stream where this technology is  
25 currently being used.  
26

27 Specifically, increased resolution  
28 results in decreased read range; therefore, the ARIS  
29 cannot provide the same channel coverage when compared  
30 to the lower resolution DIDSON that's currently being  
31 used. The decreased read range combined with the  
32 tendency for king salmon to travel further offshore at  
33 the Miles Lake site compared to sockeye salmon may  
34 result in a delay in implementation until read ranges  
35 can either be improved on the ARIS units or until  
36 additional offshore ARIS units can be safely deployed.  
37

38 However, deploying an ARIS offshore at  
39 the Miles Lake site is inherently difficult due to the  
40 glacial influence, the location of Miles Lake, above  
41 the lake a lot of glacial debris and vehicle to house  
42 sized icebergs present at the site and distributed  
43 throughout the full channel width. Yet options should  
44 exist to make this work and we're hopeful that these  
45 obstacles can be overcome, but this will be a  
46 challenging task and development of a sonar system will  
47 need to be conducted alongside the mark or capture  
48 program until bank coverage in proportion of the  
49 population within sonar range can be accurately  
50

1 determined and estimates can be independently verified.

2

3 We're all very excited about the  
4 opportunity for this transition, but it's probably  
5 going to take a while before we can figure this out.  
6 The Copper River is a very difficult place to implement  
7 this technology.

8

9 So thank you.

10

11 And if anyone has any questions I'll be  
12 happy to answer them.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was a very,  
15 very good presentation. So if you run out of work and  
16 you want to come to the Kenai, let us know. Okay?

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

21

22 MR. GEASE: You said -- you made  
23 mention of an LGL independent evaluation. Can you  
24 explain what information was shared with Fish and Game  
25 on that?

26

27 MR. PICHE: Out of courtesy and the  
28 agreement between us and Fish and Game, we're just  
29 giving that information to them at this point until  
30 they have conducted a full review of it. So we're just  
31 kind of keeping it between us. It wasn't paid for with  
32 Federal funds or grant funds or anything like that, so  
33 we're just.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Top secret.

36

37 MR. PICHE: For now. But at the winter  
38 meeting I'm sure they have their review done by then.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: I don't understand your  
43 language. I don't know what you mean by biometrics.  
44 You said you're going to do biometrics in the future.  
45 Does that mean that you're going to be able to tell the  
46 length of the king salmon through this new technology?

47

48 MR. PICHE: Yeah. So with the sonar,  
49 the majority of the work done on the Kenai -- and

50

1 they've done some phenomenal work, they're looking at  
2 total length of the fish. We have a real unique  
3 opportunity on our fishwheel platform where we can get  
4 an image of the fish directly behind the fishwheel  
5 platform and that fish can then be captured. And not  
6 only can we take length measurements, but we can take  
7 girth. We can -- I mean we can take -- basically  
8 biometrics are just measurements of the fish in  
9 addition to length, girth, and, you know, other such  
10 measurements.

11  
12 We're not exactly sure on which ones  
13 we're going to do yet, but at least length and girth.

14  
15 So the idea is that if we actually have  
16 the measurements of the fish that we imaged, then we  
17 can go back and look at that imagery taken by the sonar  
18 and we can try to figure out how accurate we can  
19 measure these fish using just sonar.

20  
21 MS. STICKWAN: But you do see a few  
22 king salmon? Have you noticed small king salmons?

23  
24 MR. PICHE: Overall, on the -- for the  
25 history of the project, yes. The king salmon size has  
26 steadily decreased since we began the project.

27  
28 MS. STICKWAN: And small sockeyes, too?

29  
30 MR. PICHE: So this -- we haven't -- we  
31 don't measure sockeye. We stopped counting sockeye  
32 once we validated the DIDSON sonar.

33  
34 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

35  
36 MR. PICHE: So it's tough for us to --  
37 for me to give you a concrete conclusion on the  
38 sockeye. We have escape panels on our live tanks, so a  
39 lot of the small sockeye can just escape on their own.

40  
41 So I don't have a good representation  
42 of sockeye.

43  
44 MS. STICKWAN: Our family shares our  
45 fishwheel, so we have a lot of people using the  
46 fishwheel. But every time I use a fishwheel I got  
47 small fish like that. That's all I got. I mean I  
48 didn't get those big ones like that. I mean it was  
49 small. And it seems to me like small fish are coming

50

1 up the river. And it's been like that for a couple of  
2 years, three years.

3  
4 MR. PICHE: And our data supports that  
5 the king salmon size has been steadily decreasing over  
6 the period of our project.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.

9  
10 Thank you Gloria.

11  
12 Yeah. We're seeing smaller fish, too,  
13 in some cases. But probably on the kings for sure.

14  
15 Daniel.

16  
17 MR. STEVENS: I just wanted to say  
18 that, yeah, the king salmon are getting smaller.  
19 Because I remember when they used to be as big as three  
20 or four feet.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

23  
24 MR. STEVENS: Especially the Tonsina  
25 kings were huge. And we're not seeing them at all, the  
26 big fish, anymore.

27  
28 But I want to thank you guys. The  
29 Native Village of Eyak for putting this wheel up there  
30 because it's sure giving us a lot more information than  
31 what we were getting before.

32  
33 So thank you.

34  
35 MR. PICHE: You're welcome.

36  
37 MS. STICKWAN: I have another question.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

40  
41 MS. STICKWAN: I don't understand what  
42 you said by the -- all this language about estimate  
43 40,725 and then you got 48,000 and -- you know, all  
44 those different language confuses me.

45  
46 MR. PICHE: I know exactly what you  
47 mean. Yep.

48  
49 So because we're not counting every  
50

1 fish on the Copper River and because of just the  
2 inherent design of a mark or capture study, we have to  
3 use statistics. So these statistics provide an  
4 abundance estimate, which for 2017 is 40,725 king  
5 salmon. That's what we believe came up the river;  
6 however, the way that the statistics work you have a  
7 lower confidence interval and an upper confidence  
8 interval. And in order for us to state that we're 95  
9 percent confident that this is the number, we have to  
10 provide a range. So that's what range is.

11  
12 Usually, I've just presented this in  
13 the past as the abundance value and I just state the  
14 standard error and the lower and the upper confidence  
15 interval, but another way of saying that is that we are  
16 95 percent confident that the true population value --  
17 the actual population value lies within that range. So  
18 it's just another way of saying it.

19  
20 It's the same information though.

21  
22 MS. STICKWAN: That makes it more  
23 clear.

24  
25 MR. PICHE: Okay.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

28  
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Just a quick comment.  
30 With your biometric data set, I think on an annual  
31 basis that's going to -- like three years ago it was  
32 just miniature reds. Not just Copper River, but the  
33 tributaries of Prince William Sound. This seems like a  
34 region-wide thing.

35  
36 Maybe the common denominator is  
37 something in the ocean, of the food source or whatever,  
38 but every year the -- it's going to be different. It's  
39 almost apples and oranges. So when you collect your  
40 data set on that, one year is going to be oh, they're  
41 all about this. And then this year some big ones  
42 showed up again, but not like they used to be, you  
43 know, type thing. So anyhow.

44  
45 MR. PICHE: Absolutely. And those are  
46 some of the difficulties associated with that sonar  
47 transition is you have to come up with a cutoff length.

48  
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Right.

50

1 MR. PICHE: And depending on whether --  
2 if you're going to use the large fish only method, you  
3 would have to come up with a cutoff length and you  
4 would have to have a way of testing that length because  
5 your returning sockeye size might increase or your  
6 returning king salmon might decrease.

7  
8 An alternate method is to measure  
9 lengths of fish continuously throughout the season.  
10 That's been tried on the Kenai and it was fairly  
11 difficult. On the Copper we might have a bit easier  
12 time doing that because the fishwheel platforms are so  
13 effective. So we may be able to provide that length  
14 frequency information at a pretty minimal cost to  
15 inform the sonar estimate. So that's another  
16 alternative that's being looked into on the Copper  
17 River.

18  
19 And I would also like to state that in  
20 addition to AKSSF, the U.S. Forest Service in Cordova  
21 has also contributed to funding the project in the  
22 future.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, you got  
25 one more question? We're going to wrap it up here.

26  
27 MR. GEASE: So given that you present  
28 information with confidence intervals, that 95 percent  
29 it's -- so when we talk about 40,000 returning this  
30 year, it's really not -- it's really we're confident  
31 it's someplace between 32,000 and 48,000. You're more  
32 comfortable stating that?

33  
34 MR. PICHE: Correct. It's -- but the  
35 -- so basically the way that we do this is we give this  
36 information to ADF&G and then they move on with it. So  
37 we give all of our information. It's a very open book.  
38 And how the State treats that will be up to the State.

39  
40 MR. GEASE: Are you going to be at the  
41 Board of Fish meeting in.....

42  
43 MR. PICHE: I sure will be.

44  
45 MR. GEASE: Okay. Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's an  
48 appropriate time to address that. Yep.

49  
50



1 Any other comments.

2  
3 (No comments)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.  
6 Very good presentation.

7  
8 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, does  
11 anyone need a break before we do our short break?

12  
13 MR. MIKE: Yes.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Five  
16 minutes, please.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 (Off record)

21  
22 (On record)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. I'm  
25 missing a couple. Oh, they're coming.

26  
27 Next item on the agenda here, we have  
28 issues for our annual report for the Council  
29 coordinator. He would like us to identify issues, if  
30 we have any, for the annual report. If we have none,  
31 that's fine.

32  
33 But Donald, I'll give it to you.

34  
35 MR. MIKE: Thank you. You'll find a  
36 quick annual report briefing on page 243 of your  
37 meeting materials.

38  
39 ANILCA established the annual reports  
40 as a way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs  
41 to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries  
42 delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section  
43 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in  
44 the annual report.

45  
46 The annual report provides the Councils  
47 an opportunity to address the directors of each of the  
48 four Department of Interior agencies and the Department  
49 of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as

50

1 members of the Federal Subsistence Board. As agency  
2 directors, the Board members have authority to  
3 implement most of the actions which would affect the  
4 changes recommended by the Councils, even those not  
5 covered in Section 805(c).

6  
7 The Councils are strongly encouraged to  
8 take advantage of this opportunity.  
9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,  
13 Donald.

14  
15 Yeah. They've got a list around 243 of  
16 report contents and so on and so forth, but if anyone  
17 has one.

18  
19 Gloria, you have one to bring up?  
20

21 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. But I'm not sure  
22 if I can -- if it will -- this will be approved or not,  
23 but the Secretary of Interior sure has taken a long  
24 time for -- the new administration taken a long time to  
25 work on the MOA, do appointments to FACA, too. All of  
26 that stuff is slow. More than usual. And it's -- I'm  
27 sure it's holding up programs, as well as the public  
28 interest.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's definitely  
31 an issue. Yeah. That's one we identified. Thanks,  
32 Gloria.

33  
34 Any others.

35  
36 Michael.

37  
38 MR. OPHEIM: I think we should continue  
39 with the climate change, water temperatures in salmon  
40 streams, things like that. Always a concern of fish  
41 not coming back, being able to spawn.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Did I show you  
44 the fat on that moose this year? It's going to get  
45 cold.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay. He  
50

1 wants to list that one.

2

3

Any others.

4

5

Judy.

6

7

MS. CAMINER: Well, Mr. Chair, maybe  
8 along the same lines. So we were talking about the  
9 reduction in size of some of the salmon and I think  
10 some of the proposals we had, we were making hunting  
11 dates earlier and that's probably also because of some  
12 of the changing climate, too. So I guess as a -- we're  
13 trying to do adaptive management because we're  
14 realizing that climate change is affecting fish and  
15 wildlife that we're dealing with.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, then  
you could add that.

19

20

Rick.

21

22

23

24

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So if more than half of the air  
pollution in west coast cities is coming from air  
pollution being generated in China and Korea, I would  
think that we're in the fallout zone in the North  
Pacific both in terms of snowfall and in terms of rain.  
And that the acid snow problem might be a very  
difficult thing to measure because typically in acid  
snow your first runoffs in the springtime is when an  
acid flush will go out through a watershed system. And  
then our monitoring isn't the first flush of water  
going out through. So it might be something that's  
just not even being detected.

And then typically when we call about  
ocean acidification as one of the mechanisms for ocean  
acidification it's in these coastal water areas where I  
think that issue is impacting ocean productivity. And  
it might be a vector or a mechanism that we're missing

1 in terms of a source of acidification.

2  
3 Now, the other thing that confounds it  
4 is that typically these up-welling cycles are on a 20-  
5 year cycle. So as it's not necessarily just that  
6 initial acidification if it goes down and becomes part  
7 of this cycle loop that comes up on 20-year cycles, we  
8 might be amplifying that through time. And we may have  
9 about 20 years or so behind the power curve on trying  
10 to figure out where these sources of acidification are  
11 coming from.

12  
13 Thanks.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's  
16 another one to add there, Donald.

17  
18 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I know last  
19 time we did comment on ocean acidification and we did  
20 get a response from the Board on that, but I wonder if  
21 Staff can check if there is any research that's being  
22 done to measure snow or upper areas or maybe have some  
23 sort of presentation on it the next time if some of  
24 this -- some of the work might be done. The inventory  
25 and monitoring.

26  
27 And just if I could ask a question then  
28 of Ricky, do you want to also have anything on the  
29 Sterling Highway as part of our annual report?

30  
31 MR. GEASE: Sure. Yeah. That I think  
32 it's important to, you know, say that we continue to  
33 support a project pathway proposal that removes the  
34 additional building of a bridge and having four or five  
35 miles of the new highway just being rebuilt right along  
36 the Kenai River corridor within 100 yards of the  
37 waterway.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,  
40 we'll re-include that or update it. Okay.

41  
42 Any others.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There you  
47 got your list. And if we come up with more, Donald,  
48 we'll get a hold of you. Okay? Alrighty.

49  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 Okay. Next on the agenda I have a  
4 review and comments on the draft revised fishery  
5 delegation authority letter, Cook Inlet area.

6

7 Scott, you going to do that? Okay.

8

9 MR. AYERS: Okay. Just to orient  
10 everyone to where this is in the book, it starts on  
11 page 254 of the Council books.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

14

15 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
16 Members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name  
17 is Scott Ayers and I'm a fisheries biologist with the  
18 Office of Subsistence Management.

19

20 Today I'm here to talk with you about  
21 the draft revised fisheries delegation of authority  
22 letter issued by the Federal Subsistence Board to the  
23 Federal in-season manager for Federal public waters of  
24 Cook Inlet. This draft represents the first revision  
25 to this letter since the initial 2002 draft.

26

27 So for some background, 50 CFR  
28 100.10(d)(6) authorizes the Board to delegate to agency  
29 officials the authority to set harvest and possession  
30 limits, define harvest areas, specify methods or means  
31 of harvest, specify permit requirements, and open or  
32 close specific fish or wildlife harvest seasons within  
33 frameworks established by the Board. It also permits  
34 in-season managers to close and reopen Federal public  
35 waters to non-subsistence fishing, but does not permit  
36 specifying methods or means, permits requirements or  
37 harvest and possession limits for state-managed  
38 fisheries.

39

40 The Federal Subsistence Management  
41 Program recently engaged in a statewide review of  
42 fisheries delegation of authority letters to make  
43 administrative changes to ensure consistency across all  
44 Federal subsistence fisheries areas whenever possible  
45 and to ensure accuracy in the delegated authorities.  
46 Those administrative changes have been finalized and  
47 are reflected in all revised fisheries delegation of  
48 authority letters.

49

50

1 In addition to administrative changes,  
2 two letters are undergoing further review and comment  
3 related to issues specific to particular fisheries,  
4 which brings us back to the revised draft Cook Inlet  
5 area delegation letter in front of you today. This  
6 draft revised delegation of authority letter is on your  
7 agenda as a result of the newly signed settlement  
8 agreement between the Ninilchik Traditional Council and  
9 the Federal Subsistence Board, Secretaries of  
10 Agriculture and Interior, and the U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service.

12  
13 Among other items, the settlement  
14 agreement stipulates that Federal Subsistence Board  
15 will engage in a review of the 2002 Cook Inlet  
16 delegation letter to ensure consistency with the  
17 Board's Tribal consultation policy and with current  
18 conservation and subsistence fishing issues for the  
19 Kenai. It further stipulates that as a part of the  
20 review process the Board will provide the Ninilchik  
21 Traditional Council with any revisions that it may  
22 propose to the delegation letter and a 30-day window  
23 for them to respond with comments on the letter and the  
24 proposed revisions.

25  
26 Following review and comment by the  
27 Ninilchik Traditional Council the Board is to provide  
28 the draft delegation letter to the Council for further  
29 review. I want to note that the reference to the  
30 Board's Tribal consultation policy was added to all  
31 fisheries delegation of authority letters during the  
32 application of administrative changes. This language  
33 is reflected in Section 6, on page four of the Cook  
34 Inlet delegation letter.

35  
36 Today we are requesting the Council's  
37 comments on the highlighted scope of delegation section  
38 in the revised draft letter. Any comments or revisions  
39 offered by the Council will be forwarded along with  
40 those provided by the Ninilchik Traditional Council to  
41 the Board for their consideration.

42  
43 If it pleases the Council and with  
44 prior permission provided by the Ninilchik Traditional  
45 Council, I'd like to summarize the comments and  
46 suggestions provided by them.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go right ahead.  
49  
50

1 MR. AYERS: Okay. The Ninilchik  
2 Traditional Council states the current draft letter of  
3 delegated authority fails to identify or establish a  
4 clear framework for how in-season decisions are made  
5 and as such confounds the spirit of the agreement.

6  
7 Specific thresholds should be  
8 identified that would trigger an in-season management  
9 decision to restrict or close take. Specific language  
10 should be added stipulating that subsistence uses of a  
11 resource will not be restricted until after all other  
12 non-subsistence uses of that resource are restricted.  
13 Opportunity to harvest a resource by subsistence users  
14 should not be restricted if that harvest is either  
15 negligible or zero. Any closures of subsistence  
16 fisheries need to be based upon current subsistence  
17 harvest data.

18  
19 The current draft letter references  
20 specific terms such as current biological information  
21 without providing definitions. These should be added.

22  
23 And lastly, the Ninilchik Traditional  
24 Council requested a Tribal consultation to further  
25 discuss revisions that would include a framework for  
26 in-season decision-making.

27  
28 So with that, I'm prepared to answer  
29 any questions and record Council comments and/or  
30 suggestions to be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Scott.  
36 Very, very good. Obviously, you got my comments, but  
37 it's okay.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Comments. I'll  
42 open it up. Questions for Scott.

43  
44 Judy.

45  
46 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 Scott, I can't quite remember on other  
49 delegations of authority, does it talk about

50

1 consultation or communication with the RAC?

2

3 MR. AYERS: I believe that in all of  
4 the letters it does talk about discussion with the  
5 Chair of the Councils.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

8

9 MR. AYERS: Oftentimes in-season  
10 management decisions are -- happen on a relatively fast  
11 basis in order to take care of things and so trying to  
12 convene the entire Council for their feedback would be  
13 difficult in a time sensitive situation, but it does  
14 mention the Chair.

15

16 MS. CAMINER: I did misstate that. I  
17 didn't mean the Chair. And where do we have that in  
18 here?

19

20 MR. AYERS: Yeah. It's in Section 5H.  
21 I believe it's in another section as well.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Very good. Thank  
24 you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

27

28 Go ahead, Rick.

29

30 MR. GEASE: So on the -- is this the  
31 appropriate time to ask -- flesh out Ninilchik's  
32 comment or your comment about specific numbers and  
33 thresholds for closing a primarily sockeye fishery?  
34 What those numbers would be?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't think so,  
37 but I don't know. I know the Council is going to give  
38 a presentation in the fishery.....

39

40 MR. GEASE: Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Didn't I have  
43 that on? The Council is going to give a presentation  
44 here shortly. And as far as this going back, this is  
45 just a comment period between you and the Council for  
46 now with the Ninilchik's specific comments. Thanks.

47

48 Thank you, Scott.

49

50



1 He wants to catch you on the run.

2  
3 Ricky, go ahead.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MR. GEASE: Not to be contrary, but in  
8 Cook Inlet what specifically do you consider the  
9 Federal public waters to non-subsistence fishing?

10  
11 MR. AYERS: So Federal public waters  
12 are the Federal public waters that are available for  
13 subsistence uses. So for instance, within the area  
14 that's been in question quite a bit recently for the  
15 last couple of years with the community gillnet  
16 fishery, we've referred to the Moose Range Meadows area  
17 within the Refuge there. Within the specific bounds.  
18 And so I believe that what that speaks to is the State-  
19 managed fishery that is through the river, but also the  
20 non -- the delegation of authority would be referencing  
21 those specific Refuge waters.

22  
23 The non-subsistence fishing occurring  
24 within those waters.

25  
26 MR. GEASE: Okay. Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right.  
29 Thanks.

30  
31 Next we've got -- I got my thing  
32 talking here, I hope. Next we've got agency reports.  
33 Agency reports. And we're going to start out with the  
34 Tribal governments. And I see Ivan, Ninilchik  
35 Traditional Council is next.

36  
37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
38 Chairman, Members of the Council. For the record, my  
39 name is Ivan Encelewski and I'm the executive director  
40 for the Ninilchik Traditional Council. And I'm going  
41 to kind of give the report today for NTC specifically  
42 related to the Kenai and Kasilof gillnet fisheries.

43  
44 And just for the record also, I did  
45 bring copies and they're on the back table here as  
46 well. One is the Kasilof and one is the Kenai report.  
47 And hopefully those were passed out to you guys as  
48 well. And if you do need or request us to email a  
49 digital copy to you or anyone, just let me know as

50

1 well. I'd be happy to do that.

2

3 I guess I'll start with the Kasilof  
4 subsistence fishery report. And I'll try and be --  
5 just briefly go through it. And I apologize that  
6 Darrel Williams, the resource manager, was unable to be  
7 here today. He fishes every day on the river, so he  
8 might have a little bit more information on detailed  
9 specifics, but I'll try and answer any of your  
10 questions as best as I can.

11

12 So the regulatory requirements are  
13 listed on page five. And I think you guys are pretty  
14 well aware of the regulatory requirements for the  
15 Kasilof. The Kasilof is a little bit different because  
16 it's I guess listed as experimental five-year temporary  
17 and it requires a plan to be approved with the U.S.  
18 Fish and Wildlife Service and some additional  
19 requirements. But I won't go into all that.

20

21 The fishery starts on June 16th and  
22 ends on August 15th. And it still uses the 10 fathom  
23 gillnet. So the gear type we use is the same as that  
24 we've been talking about. The 10 fathoms, five and a  
25 quarter inch mesh. Pretty standard.

26

27 So on page six it talks about the  
28 harvesting practice. So the net is set out. There's  
29 three techniques that are identified for the fishery,  
30 but the only technique that we used was the set  
31 gillnet, which was on a running line pulling it out.  
32 So the net's placed in the water for a maximum of 30  
33 minutes and then it's pulled to shore. So it can take  
34 anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes to check the net.

35

36 They can visually see most of the fish  
37 that are caught and splash. So when the fish are  
38 caught they're identified by species, reduced from the  
39 net and the water, and placed in the submerged recovery  
40 box on site. So on the Kasilof site we have a recovery  
41 box that we're required to use as far as the  
42 operational plan. So the recovery box consists of a  
43 wire mesh box and it's placed in the river. The  
44 dimensions are 36 by 24 by 24. So this allows us to  
45 kind of selectively harvest fish.

46

47 On page seven, at the top, you'll see  
48 that the fish were removed and data is logged on field  
49 data sheets. So they -- the field data sheets identify

50

1 the date, the start time, and the designated fishers,  
2 the set number, method, all those different things that  
3 are identified for reporting purposes.

4  
5 So the original plan consisted of  
6 taking multiple harvest limits in a day. So we use --  
7 on the Kasilof we have a designated fishery permit,  
8 which allows individual subsistence users to harvest I  
9 think up to two additional harvest limits for other  
10 subsistence users.

11  
12 So interesting there, there's a Gantt  
13 chart provided which talks about -- kind of shows for  
14 the day how we do this fishery. So we mobilize the  
15 boat and gear from about 9:00 to 10:00 in the morning.  
16 It takes about an hour to set the gear. Fish in the  
17 net, you know, in a typical day averaged about 3.2  
18 hours of actual soak time. So that's in water fishing  
19 time. And then it talks about the travel time.

20  
21 So on the fishery for the Kasilof for  
22 2017 we had one wild chinook salmon and two lake trout,  
23 as far as non-targeted fish, which were all released  
24 successfully.

25  
26 On page eight you can see the site  
27 location. It's just upstream from the boat launch  
28 there on the Kasilof. And we did this year -- did try  
29 a second site across from the first site. And you can  
30 see that on the starred map.

31  
32 Page nine through eleven just kind of  
33 show the permit. So each individual that wants to  
34 participate in the fishery gets a permit from the U.S.  
35 Fish and Wildlife Service and then that permit is  
36 brought to the Ninilchik Traditional Council offices  
37 and they're signed up on a first come, first served  
38 basis. And then fish are allocated about that.

39  
40 On page 12 we talk about distribution.  
41 So it talks a little bit about how the fish are  
42 distributed. The only thing I would say on that --  
43 some people -- because there's a Kasilof and a Kenai  
44 fishery, some people would be like well, I just want  
45 fish from the Kenai because they're larger and whatnot.  
46 So some people have a preference. And sometimes it --  
47 I wouldn't say it creates a big problem, but it -- you  
48 know, it just creates an issue with people that may not  
49 want to receive fish on the Kasilof versus the Kenai.

1                   So on page 13 it talks about the  
2 species and the numbers harvested. And it kind of just  
3 shows you the days of the fishing. And as you could  
4 see, things didn't really start showing up until around  
5 the 20th of June. And then the 21st and 22nd. What  
6 I've noticed on the -- or what we've noticed on the  
7 Kasilof is Kasilof's very acutely cyclic, so you can  
8 fish one day and get quite a few fish and the next day  
9 you get very few. Unlike in the Kenai, you start to  
10 see a buildup and the run strength will kind of move  
11 through and you'll start to get pretty good fishery.  
12 It's much more sporadic on the Kasilof.

13  
14                   So each day we're, you know, logging  
15 these and reporting them. This report talks a little  
16 bit about gillnet injury on the last paragraph. Didn't  
17 cause any injuries. No fish were bleeding from the  
18 gills. Generally, the fish were exhausted from  
19 becoming tangled in the net. They were identified at  
20 the water line when checking the net.

21  
22                   And then when the sockeye was  
23 identified as the harvest species they were reduced  
24 from the net and placed in the recovery box. And the  
25 fish that were identified for harvest that were not  
26 treated as non-target fish and frequently moved from  
27 water to managed fish handling in the water and  
28 expedite the fish harvest. So it talks a little bit  
29 about -- the estimated mortality of target fish in the  
30 net was less than five percent did not recover in the  
31 recovery box.

32  
33                   So a little bit about the fish  
34 condition. Varied. And we noticed this from, you  
35 know, saltwater fish to freshwater fish. There were  
36 some instances where we're catching fish who had  
37 previously been netted, escaped or released. You could  
38 see from the harm, injury to the fish.

39  
40                   Page 14 just shows kind of some of the  
41 photos of how this net is out. And you could see in  
42 the early part of the season on the Kasilof the water  
43 level's way down, so you get quite a bit more bank  
44 there. And as the water level progresses as the time  
45 goes on it gets quite a bit higher.

46  
47                   So yeah, you can just kind of look  
48 through some of those pictures on page 17. You could  
49 show removing the dorsal fin is one of the markings of  
50

1 subsistence fish versus cutting the tails I think in  
2 the State fishery. So just some more pictures of how  
3 the.....  
4

5 You can see there on page 20 and 21 we  
6 did encounter one chinook and put it in the live  
7 recovery box. And was successfully released. So we're  
8 taking measurements and DNA sampling.  
9

10 And on page 24 we had a little critter  
11 that was checking our fish-friendly net.  
12

13 (Laughter)  
14

15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: So on page 25, on the  
16 Kasilof we're using a again designated fishery permit.  
17 And then you could see the reports that -- on the  
18 designated fish report not only reporting each day --  
19 so as the fishery manager Darrel gets done with the  
20 day, he'll send the report to Jeff of the current data  
21 sheet for the day of what was caught and harvested.  
22 But we're also required to submit those designated  
23 fishery permit at the end of the year and log those  
24 under who was fished under. And we have three main  
25 people there -- Daniel, Gina, and Darrel.  
26

27 And then the other information that's  
28 just more informational there is a copy of the actual  
29 operational plan that's required for this fishery. So  
30 on page 32, it looks like about 40, just describes the  
31 operational plan. We didn't have any issues this year  
32 on the operational plan. We've worked with Jeff really  
33 well for the last several years identifying the  
34 language. And I think we were able to get it finalized  
35 in April and signed. And then the other one is just a  
36 copy of the special use conditions permit that was done  
37 a few years ago that I think is still valid. So it's  
38 just informational.  
39

40 So I guess moving on to the Kenai  
41 fishery report. It's a little bit thicker. And I'll  
42 just start with the -- on page five. The big changes  
43 this year was all of the process that we've had to go  
44 through to make this fishery move forward to eliminate  
45 certain regulations and add new ones to make this all  
46 work.  
47

48 And so this year it was -- in order to  
49 implement the fishery, we went through the process of a  
50

1 special temporary special action as you're aware. Just  
2 as a reiteration, this removed the linkage between the  
3 community gillnet and then the other types of dipnet  
4 and rod and reel. And as you may remember, this was a  
5 concern between communities; i.e., Cooper Landing and  
6 Ninilchik. So Cooper Landing there's a 2,000 annual  
7 harvest limit and they were concerned that the fishery  
8 -- the gillnet would take up that harvest limit.  
9

10 And so by separating that out and  
11 having no annual harvest limit that was removed. So  
12 there was no competition between communities for, you  
13 know, potentially harvesting all the sockeye. So that  
14 was the rationale for one.  
15

16 Two, the retention of mortality. Yeah.  
17 If we're not allowed to retain dead resident species,  
18 that was an issue. We established an early chinook run  
19 of no more than 50 with a slot limit from July 1st to  
20 15th. And then the closure of up to 200 late run  
21 chinook between July 16th and 15th. And then the  
22 closure of the fishery prior to any time if 200 of the  
23 late run chinook are met. And then of course the live  
24 release of rainbow and Dolly Varden within a counter of  
25 no more than 100 rainbow and 150 Dollies.  
26

27 So the participation on harvest limit  
28 on page six was very similar. We went through the same  
29 process to have individuals -- we notified the  
30 community. Put up notices around. People had to go  
31 into the office. And most of them probably got their  
32 Kasilof and Kenai permits at the same time when they  
33 went to the Fish and Wildlife office. So again we went  
34 through the practice of how distributing fish.  
35

36 We only encountered a few situations  
37 where because we kept a first come, first serve. So  
38 when people would go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
39 office, get their permit, and then come to our office  
40 and sign up on the list, then we'd kind of go through a  
41 first come, first served process. But sometimes you  
42 would not be able to get a hold of that person that  
43 day. Say you went out fishing that day and that person  
44 -- you call that person and they weren't available, so  
45 then you'd go down to the next person on the list.  
46

47 And we encountered a few issues where  
48 some people didn't want all the limit of their fish, so  
49 maybe their eligible household limit was 30 and they  
50

1 only wanted 10. So then we would give them 10 and move  
2 down the list again. So things like that.

3  
4 We had an individual that didn't want  
5 sockeye. They just wanted chinook. And because we  
6 didn't catch chinook, they -- we just told them okay.  
7 So we moved down the list. Gear type was the same,  
8 identical as the Kasilof.

9  
10 On page eight, you'll notice the  
11 harvesting practice. And a little bit different on the  
12 Kasilof. Because on Kasilof we're having a 30-minute  
13 soak time as part of the operational plan. On the  
14 Kenai the water is very swift moving and it's very  
15 difficult to set out the net. And so you're not able  
16 to just quickly, easily just pull that net in and out.

17  
18 So the practice is to be running that  
19 net. And pretty much as soon as a fish is hit, the  
20 fishery -- because you can wade this. This is a  
21 fishery where you can wade up and down the net in the  
22 river. So it's not like you're using a boat or  
23 anything to get the fish out. You're just walking the  
24 net.

25  
26 So the net is actively monitored that  
27 way. By just taking the fish. And there's somebody in  
28 the boat or onshore monitoring that. And this is just  
29 an example of that harvest. Showing at certain set  
30 times during the -- while the net's in the water that  
31 the -- how the fish are being done -- or caught for the  
32 day. So it's just another example of, you know, making  
33 sure that we're being proactive and, you know,  
34 recording how many fish are being caught at a certain  
35 time.

36  
37 Non-targeted fish. There was no non-  
38 targeted fish encountered during the 2017 fishery. So  
39 there was no resident species, either Dolly or rainbows  
40 encountered for the entire fishery. And that included  
41 the early and the late season or I guess the first and  
42 the second season. We did encounter and harvest one  
43 chinook in the late season and that was the only  
44 chinook that we encountered all year.

45  
46 The site location is the similar site  
47 location that we used last year and it's just below the  
48 power line there and in the Moose Range Meadows. And  
49 it kind of just gives you a site location.

50

1 11 through 13 just describes the  
2 permits. And Jeff would have more detailed information  
3 on the permits, but I think there's, you know, probably  
4 close to 90 permittees or something like that -- that  
5 household. So the increased -- there was definitely an  
6 increase in participation.

7  
8 Page 14 is really important because it  
9 kind of gives you the spreadsheet of the actual days  
10 that were harvest every day. So you'll see in there  
11 one thing we did is we fished in the Kasilof, you know,  
12 because it opens earlier. And then when the fishery  
13 first opened -- I think it opens July 1st in the Kenai.  
14 And so that was a weekend.

15  
16 So we set out on the 3rd of July, was  
17 our first day, and we didn't catch anything. And so  
18 what we decided to do was go back to the Kasilof. And  
19 fished in the Kasilof time because realizing that the  
20 fish hasn't come in in the Kasilof -- or in the Kenai  
21 yet.

22  
23 So we didn't start again fishing until  
24 the 10th of July. And on the 10th you could see we  
25 harvested six fish in three hours. And so if you look  
26 at that spreadsheet there, the fish really didn't -- I  
27 mean they came in a little bit the middle of July, but  
28 it was really that 25th to the beginning of August that  
29 really the fish started coming in for the sockeye.

30  
31 So we harvested 2,169 sockeye. The  
32 average soak time was about four hours. So we're  
33 fishing about four hours a day of actual fishing time  
34 in the water. As noted there, we did catch one chinook  
35 at the end of September. There was twelve harvested  
36 coho and it looks like there about nine pink.  
37 Somewhere around there. So almost exclusively a  
38 sockeye fishery.

39  
40 A little bit of the gillnet.  
41 Interesting on the fish conditions. You'll see some of  
42 the different things. And I'm not the biologist, but  
43 different things. And Darrel had reported these  
44 before. Some of the parasites, some of the markings,  
45 injuries.

46  
47 More pictures showing kind of how the  
48 net looks in the Kenai. It's done very closely to the  
49 bank in that section. And basically what we recognized  
50



1 -- because this is an area -- as you can see, you can  
2 wade it. Like on page 21, where you can see it's  
3 about, you know, a little over knee high. There it's a  
4 kind of shallow channel where the kings tend to go out  
5 in the middle -- run up through the middle channels.  
6 And there's sport fishermen a lot of times outside of  
7 that. So pretty reasonable based on the data that the  
8 king salmon aren't running real close to the bank like  
9 this, which has kind of made it into a fishery that has  
10 proven to be really successful at targeting sockeye.

11  
12 So just a lot of pictures going through  
13 there. Several seals. I was actually up there on a  
14 few days and there's quite a few seals up there at mile  
15 28. Quite a ways up the river encountered quite a few.  
16 So mostly pictures.

17  
18 And so then the special action is just  
19 more of informational. Was that the special action was  
20 completed this spring in order to implement the issues  
21 that weren't able to be approved by the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board at the time. And so there's still a  
23 long, convoluted process to continue this fishery, to  
24 make it permanent.

25  
26 The settlement agreement was approved.  
27 I just got a copy just here a few minutes ago of the  
28 signed commitment letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service and the Federal Subsistence Board as well. So  
30 we'll be moving forward in a collaborative effort to  
31 continue to make this happen.

32  
33 There will be some things that have to  
34 happen at the Federal Subsistence Board in spring of  
35 2018. Of course we share the frustration of not being  
36 able to have, you know, things posted in the Federal  
37 Register and the slow moving of the -- the Federal  
38 government has really stymied this process moving  
39 forward. But we may have to at worst case scenario do  
40 another special action in 2018. A temporary special  
41 action to continue the fishery prior to the permanent  
42 regulations being approved. But we're hopeful. And I  
43 think everyone's kind of now on the same page of moving  
44 this process forward.

45  
46 So I'd be happy to answer any questions  
47 regarding the fisheries or -- I didn't mention.

48  
49 I think there was about 315 sockeye  
50

1 taken in the Kasilof and about 2,169 in the Kenai. So  
2 about 2,500 sockeye for the community. And one thing  
3 that's not in the report there is just that, you know,  
4 this is an important fishery for our community because,  
5 you know, we have an educational net.

6  
7 A lot of times people like to say well,  
8 you have all these other opportunities. Well, we do  
9 have an educational net on the State level, which is  
10 not subsistence. But that allows us to fish with two  
11 nets in the Cook Inlet all summer long at two sites and  
12 in the Kasilof in the later season. And we harvested  
13 only about 600 sockeye in those two nets all summer  
14 long between those for -- so what we can do in a short  
15 period on the Kenai and even in the Kasilof can outdo  
16 fishing every day in the Cook Inlet with the 10 fathom  
17 net. So it's proved to be very effective.

18  
19 And we're starting to see anecdotally,  
20 you know, the people are, you know, pleased to be able  
21 to get some fish. And I think it's -- you know, when  
22 you don't catch any resident species all year long in  
23 the Kenai and only one king salmon, I think it's been a  
24 successful fishery.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ivan.  
27 We'll open it up for questions. Good report.

28  
29 I did note one page Darrel needs to  
30 make a correction on the Kenai. It says Kasilof.

31  
32 Go ahead, Ed.

33  
34 MR. HOLSTON: Yeah. As you probably  
35 know, the communities of Cooper Landing and Hope have  
36 been -- have been adamantly opposed to -- for a variety  
37 of reasons to the gillnetting on the Kenai River. I  
38 think the results of this year will go a long way to  
39 alleviate those concerns. There's always going to be  
40 people that aren't going to buy off on it and I think  
41 your explanation -- I think one of the concerns that --  
42 would be your impact on the chinook. And I was  
43 surprised that you only caught one chinook. But after  
44 listening to you and your report on net placement and  
45 away from the basic pathway of chinook probably  
46 explains your low catch.

47  
48 And kind of on a somewhat related from  
49 Cooper Landing, we have our own dipnet up at the falls,  
50

1 and which I participate in, a lot of the community  
2 participates in. And this is just a question that --  
3 I'd kind of make it a plea for more enforcement on that  
4 fisheries up there. Because I go up -- I probably go  
5 up there six times a year as a designated fisherman for  
6 other permit holders. And I've noted very little  
7 enforcement from -- and I know enforcement is tough for  
8 both Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife due to  
9 funding and personnel, but I've noted quite a bit of  
10 abuse of that fisheries from non-permit holders up  
11 there. Because it's a very easy public access.  
12

13 You go down the falls, fish below the  
14 falls, and everybody -- you just have to start driving  
15 people off. Because even though you show them your  
16 permit and there's signage up there, we've seen a lot  
17 of abuse of that fishery up there. And I think a  
18 little bit more of enforcement would really help.  
19

20 Some of the most grievous incidents  
21 that I've seen have been with foreigners. You know,  
22 people from other countries. Because they don't -- you  
23 know, it's tough. They can -- I won't go into detail  
24 what we've seen up there, but even if they're cited,  
25 they're gone in two, three days back to wherever.  
26

27 So a little more presence of  
28 enforcement would help our fisheries out.  
29

30 So that's about all I want to say.  
31

32 And I want to thank NTC for their  
33 openness on their data, which I distribute to Cooper  
34 Landing and Hope residents. And that's gone a long way  
35 to alleviate those concerns.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Ed. Good  
38 comments.  
39

40 Judy.  
41

42 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thanks, Ivan,  
43 for good presentations as always.  
44

45 And maybe for our annual report I would  
46 suggest that we add Ed's concern about additional  
47 enforcement at the falls. That's really valuable  
48 information to have and for the Board and Forest  
49 Service to be aware of, of course.  
50

1 I was going to ask Ivan if -- when or  
2 if you will then submit next year's plans of operation.

3  
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair, Ms.  
5 Caminer, so because they're two separate fisheries, the  
6 Kasilof -- we'll probably work with Jeff again in the  
7 springtime. We'll submit a new operational plan. That  
8 requires continuing that process, which we don't  
9 anticipate any problems.

10  
11 Not to get out -- off subject, but  
12 we'll have to look at the issue of the Kasilof because  
13 it does have a five-year sunset clause. And we put in  
14 to make that permanent and as you know, the OSM and the  
15 Federal Subsistence Board didn't support us on that.  
16 But I think it's something that because it hasn't been  
17 published in the Federal Register.

18  
19 And I made this on record at our last  
20 RAC meeting is that we have to decide whether we'll do  
21 a request for consideration or file just a new proposal  
22 to make that process permanent. Because that would be  
23 the process whereby we could go to the Kenai process  
24 where we're already named and we could kind of  
25 eliminate some of this over burden of regulations.

26  
27 On the Kenai side it's very, very, very  
28 convoluted because of the -- as you know, that lawsuit  
29 is settled. That we're working -- the commitment  
30 letter has been signed by the Federal Subsistence Board  
31 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, so the process  
32 moving -- well, we obviously need the actions in the  
33 January meeting posted in the Federal Register. That  
34 would be a first step, you know. And then the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board has to take up the new permanent  
36 regulations in this upcoming spring.

37  
38 If that's not able to be finalized and  
39 posted in the Federal Register prior to the new season  
40 in 2018 for the Kenai, then it will require a temporary  
41 special action again, which then we would as part of  
42 the settlement agreement and the commitment letter that  
43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife has signed, they will work with  
44 us. And I'm sure OSM and others will work with us.  
45 And they worked with us really well in this last year  
46 to get that done.

47  
48 So it's just -- it's unfortunate it's  
49 -- you know, I would say if the Federal government  
50

1 would step up their process of posting things in the  
2 Federal Register and getting, you know, the Department  
3 of Interior kind of moving a little bit quicker, we  
4 could get this done. But I guess my personal opinion  
5 is probably at a 50/50 shot of having to do a temporary  
6 special action again. Because if the regulations  
7 aren't permanent and finalized in 2018, it'll create an  
8 issue.

9  
10 So that's kind of the process moving  
11 forward. But I can say that I think everybody's  
12 working together and we're very pleased with everything  
13 that we've seen on our end with Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service, with everyone. So I don't anticipate any  
15 issues other than logistical challenges.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky.

18  
19 MR. GEASE: Since I'm trying to comply  
20 with the Paperwork Reduction Act, can we get this in  
21 electronic format?

22  
23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Absolutely.

24  
25 MR. GEASE: Okay. Thanks.

26  
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And I mentioned to Mr.  
28 Holston that anybody that wants electronic copies to  
29 just let me know. And I can send you and Ed and anyone  
30 else that wants a copy electronically.

31  
32 I was just told -- and it's our fault,  
33 but, you know, in order to get the information in the  
34 packets we had to meet a deadline. And we didn't. So  
35 Donald says we've got to bring 50 copies, which is  
36 fine. It's no problem.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I want to make sure  
41 you guys have the information.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You need to send  
44 Donald the Paper Act.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
49 questions on the presentation.

50

1 Thank you very much, Ivan. There's  
2 that one little correction like I said on that one  
3 page. And very good.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman, Members of the RAC.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next we  
11 have Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. And we  
12 kind of did part of that yesterday. We did a pretty  
13 good report. But you're welcome to come, Karen.

14  
15 MS. LINNELL: I think we.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You pretty well  
18 covered it?

19  
20 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. I think we  
21 covered.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

24  
25 MS. LINNELL: .....just about  
26 everything yesterday. Thank you, sir.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You're  
29 welcome. Thank you.

30  
31 Okay. Next we have U.S. Fish and  
32 Wildlife Service Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

33  
34 See. It was worth that wait, right?

35  
36 MR. ESKELIN: Oh, boy.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. ESKELIN: Thank you, Council and  
41 Chair. For the record, Todd Eskelin, Kenai National  
42 Wildlife Refuge.

43  
44 I do want to note that I was called out  
45 on not bringing donuts.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MR. ESKELIN: And as many times as I

50

1 heard about your moose, I'm surprised that we didn't  
2 have any lunch here today.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, it ain't  
5 lunch yet.

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MR. ESKELIN: Just a couple of quick  
10 things. You know, the FM15-05 moose hunt doesn't  
11 officially end until after our fall RAC meeting, so  
12 just enough to eat on last year at the end of the  
13 season. I don't know how much the members differed  
14 from what I reported last time, but there were 12 moose  
15 harvested and five of those were cows -- five of the  
16 eight quota that we have set each year.

17  
18 And then so far this year you'll see  
19 the number of permits was down a little bit. The  
20 bottom line there in 2017 was 94 permits. Seven moose  
21 harvested and 2 of those were cows. Of the other five,  
22 I believe only one of them would have been legal under  
23 the State regulations, so six of the seven were  
24 directly resulting from the additional advantages that  
25 the subsistence permit offers.

26  
27 So far we've only had one harvest  
28 during the late season, which is pretty typical. I  
29 think it's a combination of a lot of people are pretty  
30 suspect that the moose are still pretty stinky. And I  
31 think we've had -- I think on average we have one to  
32 two moose harvested during the late season. And  
33 honestly we're fine with that because we've had a lot  
34 of discussion of a lot of these other proposals about  
35 these, you know, larger post-reg aggregations of bulls  
36 and cows and it's really not the best time to be  
37 chasing moose around.

38  
39 And so the folks that have participated  
40 in that late hunt generally take a smaller bull and  
41 most them tell me they're still pretty stinky even when  
42 they're harvesting a smaller bull. So I think that's  
43 probably all I have on the numbers if there's any  
44 questions about that portion of it.

45  
46 I have one other thing to mention, too,  
47 but I'll wait for questions on this.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions on  
50

1 his report, the numbers.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Just go ahead on  
6 the other then.

7

8 MR. ESKELIN: Yeah. The only other  
9 thing I had to report was I did have a couple of  
10 different hunters reported to me that they were  
11 disappointed with the designated hunter program, the  
12 way it's working on the Kenai.

13

14 It's really of no consequence to the  
15 Refuge as far as how the RAC or the Subsistence Board  
16 manages a designated hunter program, but what a lot of  
17 hunters were complaining about is that the majority of  
18 the people putting in for a designated hunter are  
19 basically putting in other family members in their same  
20 household, getting a moose, tagging it on their wife's  
21 as a designated hunter or kids, and then continuing to  
22 hunt for more moose. And on the Kenai with, you know,  
23 94 permits and only seven moose harvested.

24

25 I don't think it's been an issue  
26 number-wise. I don't think there's very -- there's  
27 hardly been a situation where the designated hunter  
28 thing has successfully put two moose in the same  
29 household, but I just mentioned it as -- because out of  
30 the responsibility of the other hunters reporting it to  
31 me, I'm passing it on.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks.

34

35 Any other questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 Todd, appreciate the donuts. Thank  
40 you.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. ESKELIN: I'll look for that back  
45 strap next meeting.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about Kenai

50



1 field office. There we go.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr.  
4 Chairman, Council Members.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning.

7

8 MR. ANDERSON: For the record, my name  
9 is Jeff Anderson. I'm the field supervisor at the  
10 Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. And in  
11 that capacity I've been delegated authority from the  
12 Federal Board to manage Federal subsistence fisheries  
13 in the Cook Inlet area.

14

15 I've got a report again. I brought 50  
16 copies as well, but mine's only a half a sheet of  
17 paper. So.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. ANDERSON: So anyway, hopefully you  
22 have that in front of you. Ivan talked about the  
23 gillnet fisheries on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.  
24 I'll focus more on the other fisheries and just the  
25 numbers of permits.

26

27 So Ivan mentioned we saw -- we did see  
28 about a doubling of the permits for folks in Ninilchik  
29 this year. So, you know, last year they were a little  
30 bit under 100 and this year over 200 permits issues for  
31 Ninilchik residents. Cooper Landing and Hope were  
32 about the same as last year for number of permits, so a  
33 total of 364 for all fisheries and all communities  
34 issued this year versus I think 227 last year.

35

36 So as of a few days ago, October 31st  
37 is when I put this summary report together.  
38 Subsistence users have until January 15th of next year  
39 to actually turn in their harvest report, so I won't  
40 have final numbers probably until sometime in February.  
41 I usually give folks a courtesy letter on or about  
42 January 15th if they haven't turned in their reports.  
43 I give them a little bit more time to get those in.

44

45 But as of now -- as of a few days ago  
46 anyway, we've got about 1,700 sockeye harvested from  
47 the Kenai River versus a total harvest last year of  
48 about 1,600. So folks seemed to do a little bit better  
49 dipnetting this year than last year. And I think the

50

1 primary fishery this year was residents of Cooper  
2 Landing and Hope. And I think they were more  
3 successful or at least more -- more fish were harvested  
4 during the early run than the late run up at the  
5 Russian River falls this year. And so far to date  
6 there has been one chinook harvested actually in the  
7 Kenai rod and reel fishery reported to date. And again  
8 reports will continue through January 15th of 2018.  
9

10 And with that I'm happy to answer any  
11 questions anyone might have.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.  
14

15 Go ahead, Judy.  
16

17 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Jeff. That was  
18 really helpful. So perhaps after your January data is  
19 all in and you've compiled it, would you be able to  
20 send it to Donald to send to all of us then?  
21

22 MR. ANDERSON: Through the Chair. Yes.  
23 I usually do send the final report once I get the final  
24 numbers.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Is  
27 there any other questions.  
28

29 (No comments)  
30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Jeff.  
32

33 How about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
34 Service Cordova District.  
35

36 IN UNISON: Forest Service.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Forest Service.  
39 Sorry.  
40

41 (Laughter)  
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I take that back.  
44

45 (Laughter)  
46

47 MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, Council  
48 Members. Again, my name is Tom Whitford. I'm the  
49 Regional Subsistence Program leader for the Forest  
50

1 Service. I did put a copy of a report in your spots  
2 this morning. Then there's also some extra copies over  
3 at -- on the table.  
4

5 I'll highlight a couple of things out  
6 of this report so I won't be reading the whole thing.  
7 The report in front of you -- it outlines some of the  
8 2017 accomplishments of the Forest Service on the  
9 Tongass and the Chugach National Forest. So I  
10 encourage you to read about those.  
11

12 And then we did highlight a couple of  
13 different projects in our program. One would be the  
14 Neva Lake weir. That's been ongoing since 2002 through  
15 2017, so you guys can read about that.  
16

17 And then I think Milo will be  
18 discussing his ongoing black bear monitoring project on  
19 the Chugach.  
20

21 What I'll focus on quickly is the 2018  
22 operating budget for this year. Again, we have two and  
23 a half million dollars that will spread across the  
24 region. A little over 700,000 of that will be at the  
25 regional office level. Around 280,000 will be on the  
26 Chugach and a little over 1.5 million will be on the  
27 Tongass National Forest. And then there's some  
28 miscellaneous stuff for a little over 6,000. And with  
29 these funds we will continue to meet our  
30 responsibilities under ANILCA.  
31

32 The proposed funding level will enable  
33 the Forest Service to continue to fund approximately 40  
34 seasonal employees that collect fish and wildlife  
35 population data in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska.  
36 A minimum of \$700,000 will go to the Tongass National  
37 Forest's FRMP project funding. This funding will  
38 support three to five FRMP projects in 2018.  
39

40 A minimum of 70,000 will be allocated  
41 to the Chugach National Forest to continue their black  
42 bear monitoring project and also to help develop  
43 cooperative projects with the Native Village of Eyak  
44 and also with the development of an FRMP program on the  
45 Chugach.  
46

47 We will also in 2018 continue to fund  
48 through an interagency agreement with the Office of  
49 Subsistence Management which helps fund these two  
50

1 Advisory Councils -- Southeast, Southcentral,  
2 anthropology, then also part of their fishery program.  
3 Like I forget who mentioned it earlier. We did help  
4 fund one of the FRMP projects on the Copper River. We  
5 helped with reconstruction of their fishwheel in 2017.

6  
7 We also supply some funding -- it will  
8 be 50,000 this year -- to law enforcement. And someone  
9 just mentioned that there's potentially some law  
10 enforcement issues up at Russian River falls and we'll  
11 be checking in on that. Because that's the first time  
12 we've heard of that.

13  
14 That's all I have.

15  
16 Any questions on my part.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You must have  
23 done good. Thank you.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. WHITFORD: Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

30  
31 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach  
32 National Forest. Good morning or almost afternoon,  
33 everybody. I'll introduce myself, David Pearson, the  
34 natural resource specialist on the Kenai. But I'll  
35 introduce in the audience here we have Francisco  
36 Sanchez, district ranger for the Seward District at  
37 Moose Pass, and then Jason Stansell, law enforcement,  
38 is in the back. And I'll give you an update on  
39 personnel here, here in a second.

40  
41 I'll try to keep this quick. Probably  
42 the biggest thing that we have going on on the forest  
43 right now is the forest plan revision. I'll try to be  
44 nice about what I say here. Many of us are hoping this  
45 goes away, but it won't until we're finished. We're  
46 getting closer. But it's been a priority for many  
47 employees on the forest here recently.

48  
49 We've responded to scoping comments on

50

1 the plan released in December 2015 and have designed  
2 alternatives based on those comments. We are currently  
3 engaging the regional office to review the plan and  
4 draft an environmental impact statement, as well as the  
5 Washington office, including the chief's office.

6  
7 The draft plan includes some new  
8 language addressing subsistence. The proposed plan and  
9 draft EIS should be released for a 90-day comment  
10 period in January of '18 and documents will be  
11 available on our website. We'll respond to comments,  
12 make adjustments, and release the final plan and final  
13 environmental impact statement for a 60-day objection  
14 period during fall of 2018 is the plan right now.

15  
16 Special actions. We didn't take any  
17 special actions this past year. Agreements. We have a  
18 continuing cost share agreement with Alaska Department  
19 of Fish and Game, helping fund monitoring of moose, of  
20 caribou, mountain goats, you know, to both the Cordova  
21 office and the Kenai office.

22  
23 We started a new cost share agreement  
24 with the Native Village of Eyak and gave them \$60,000  
25 to go towards their Copper River fishwheel project.  
26 And we started a new cost agreement with the Prince  
27 William Sound Science Center to begin a project.  
28 \$20,000 to fund research to look at the effect of egg  
29 harvest on the Gull Island where a gull harvest, an egg  
30 harvest season began a few years ago under a different  
31 subsistence program than ours right here.

32  
33 I'll give you some updates on some of  
34 the species important to subsistence on the forest.  
35 Moose in particular. And I'll talk about the Prince  
36 William Sound area. You know, Cordova area right now.  
37 The population was last surveyed in 2014. The  
38 population was estimated at over 600 moose. We believe  
39 we're even higher than that now and probably nearing or  
40 at all time highs. There's very high twinning rates  
41 and there's a report attached to this. And you have my  
42 document that I left on your -- at your spots on the  
43 first day. And there's a stack of them there.

44  
45 But I attached the twinning report.  
46 That's -- we fund -- Fish and Game -- to do some of  
47 this work. And it's their management report that I've  
48 attached here. And because of the health of the  
49 population and the health of the habitat as indexed by  
50

1 the twinning rates, last year the AC, working with Fish  
2 and Game and myself, increased the management goal from  
3 4 to 500 moose to 6 to 800 moose. So we're sitting  
4 pretty good in that department.

5  
6 As I mentioned yesterday, we received  
7 1,070 applications for moose permits this year. We  
8 issued 80 permits. There were 15 permits on the State  
9 side. We issued 45 cow and 35 -- or 45 bull and 35 cow  
10 permits. The cow season has just concluded and 33 of  
11 the 35 cows were harvested. The bull season is still  
12 running.

13  
14 The Forest Service and Native Village  
15 of Eyak are continuing habitat improvement, hydro-axing  
16 on the Copper River Delta and have basically started a  
17 new plan to treat 1,000 acres in the future.

18  
19 And we completed deer transects in the  
20 spring. The deer population in Prince William Sound is  
21 recovering nicely from the big winter we had 2011/12.  
22 After three mild winters where results of deer pellet  
23 transects weren't really comparable to the historical  
24 data because we basically had no winter, finally we got  
25 almost a normal winter. And the results were  
26 comparable and they showed we're doing quite well. In  
27 fact, the highest indexes -- deer pellet per plot  
28 indexes since 1998. And that report is attached to the  
29 back of here, which you might find interesting.

30  
31 And then black bear project. So we  
32 continued work on the cooperative black bear study.  
33 I'm working with the Fish and Game biologist in Cordova  
34 on this. We moved from Esther Island to Knight Island  
35 in Prince William Sound this summer. We had 38  
36 captures of 33 different bears. It brings the total  
37 bears we've handled up to 58 for the two seasons. And  
38 we have 33 collars deployed and we're getting a lot of  
39 data. We'll have one more season of trapping this  
40 coming year, but that program is going really, really  
41 well and we're learning a lot along the way.

42  
43 There's a fresh water fishery on the  
44 Copper River Delta and we issued over 100 permits this  
45 year, but we don't have the results of those and won't  
46 until this winter. But in 2016 555 coho and 234  
47 sockeye were reported harvested in that fishery.

48  
49 And then before I go to the Kenai I'll  
50

1 give you some personnel updates. Mostly Jeff Briden,  
2 who's -- we've paid subsistence money. Even though  
3 he's law enforcement, we've paid some of his time to  
4 help implement the management program. And he retired  
5 in June, so we'll miss him. He was a great asset both  
6 in the field and helping issue permits and contacting  
7 people on the Kenai. But we have had Jason Stansell  
8 filling his shoes for this season. But he's just  
9 recently taken a job in recreation at Girdwood. And  
10 we'll be looking for the right person -- the new law  
11 enforcement off that will be on the Kenai -- to help  
12 fill that role.

13  
14 And I think that's what I needed to say  
15 there.

16  
17 MR. PEARSON: David Pearson, natural  
18 resource specialist with the Chugach National Forest,  
19 Kenai Peninsula aquatic zone.

20  
21 We held four public meetings to hand  
22 out permits -- moose, caribou, and salmon. Use and  
23 harvest is on par for previous few years. Thus far  
24 three out of five caribou have been harvested for  
25 caribou and one moose was taken under the Federal  
26 subsistence moose hunt FM0004. And the other thing  
27 we've been working on -- we moved our office from  
28 Seward to Moose Pass, which is a lot closer to the  
29 communities we serve, and we've been working on getting  
30 our front desk person more up-to-date with handing out  
31 subsistence permits.

32  
33 So up to now they had to contact myself  
34 or a law enforcement officer and we had to arrange a  
35 meeting, so now from 8:00 o'clock to 4:30 any given day  
36 they could come to our office and get a permit. So  
37 that just simplifies handing out permits. And we still  
38 have our permit meetings, but it's just easier. If  
39 they can't catch us, there's somewhere they can go and  
40 get one on a daily basis -- as long as that position  
41 remains filled.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. PEARSON: So that's all I have.

46  
47 MR. BURCHAM: Thanks. Any questions.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Just a quick  
2 one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3  
4 Revising back to just an old topic, the  
5 .804 analysis that was run on the Kings Bay moose and  
6 that bad winter year was like when we got the snapshot  
7 in time about the low numbers and that it was closed at  
8 that point. At what point do you see another aerial  
9 survey being done to make sure that is a subsistence  
10 opportunity resource available to the communities of  
11 Tatitlek and Chenega Bay.

12  
13 MR. BURCHAM: It's probably getting  
14 time to take a look at that. I'll talk to the Fish and  
15 Game biologist on the Kenai that we, you know, have  
16 some money with and who flew that last survey and we'll  
17 see if we can put it on the list and prioritize it.  
18 And then hope we get conditions to do that.

19  
20 But yeah, thanks for the reminder.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
23 questions.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
28 gentlemen.

29  
30 MR. PEARSON: Actually, may I just add  
31 one thing.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Sure.

34  
35 MR. PEARSON: We do have some LEO  
36 enforcement at the falls. It's all about timing. And  
37 I do know I've talked to them because I have heard that  
38 complaint. And they always tell me when they go  
39 there's nothing happening. So I think maybe we'll  
40 continue that effort, but it's just about timing.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Drones. Drones  
43 work good.

44  
45 MR. PEARSON: I'm sure you want a bunch  
46 of government drones.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50



1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. National  
2 Park Service.

3  
4 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. Dave  
5 Sarafin, fishery biologist with Wrangell-St. Elias  
6 National Park. I'll be leading off with the fisheries  
7 part of our report anyways here and then passing you  
8 over to Judy Putera after this.

9  
10 So both weirs Tanada Creek and Long  
11 Lake operated successfully this year again. They both  
12 employ local hire residents. Tanada Creek's vital for  
13 the Batzulnetas fishery in that area. Table 1 shows  
14 historic counts along with five year and ten year  
15 averages from both weirs. For 2017 Tanada Creek  
16 counted 23,849 slightly above average. Actually, it  
17 shows the range on there. Not the -- it's just the ten  
18 year average, I guess. So it's slightly above average.

19  
20 The chinook salmon was four, which is  
21 -- it's typical if you weed out the one strange here  
22 where we had 137 that showed up probably from another  
23 creek washing out to where salmon moved in from another  
24 location.

25  
26 Long Lake has had a -- this year we  
27 really discovered an extensive beaver dam problem on  
28 the -- it's approximate three mile stretch of slow flow  
29 creek. A little trickle between the lake and the  
30 Lakina River there. And it delayed -- we weren't  
31 getting fish until someone went down and started taking  
32 out some of the beaver dams they were rebuilding. So I  
33 think it affected this year's run, as well as last  
34 year's pretty substantially there. So it is an issue  
35 we'll be addressing for next year.

36  
37 For the burbot -- we also did some  
38 burbot research monitoring in Lake -- it's an OSM  
39 funded project. We're midway through it. It's a four-  
40 year project. It's looking at small lakes of the Upper  
41 Yukon and Tanana Drainage that are within the Park.  
42 This year we went to sample Carden Lake and also Bray  
43 Lakes. And both of those lakes we did not find burbot  
44 in. We had rumors that they were in there. Carden did  
45 have a lot of grayling and Bray had some lake trout in  
46 it.

47  
48 And for future projects -- for research  
49 and monitoring projects in the Park planned for 2018 we  
50

1 have the two weirs that are awaiting funding decision  
2 on whether they'll operate and then the burbot  
3 population assessment project will continue for another  
4 two years.

5  
6 In the Federal subsistence fishery we  
7 issue Federal subsistence fishing permits at four  
8 locations in the Park and at the Tetlin National  
9 Wildlife Refuge. In 2017 we issued 337 Glennallen  
10 permits, 133 Chitina permits, and one Batzulnetas  
11 permit. Tables 2 through 4 at the back end of the text  
12 show historical reported and expanded harvest in these  
13 fisheries. For 2017 we're still awaiting returns of  
14 the harvest reports to have anything in there reported  
15 yet.

16  
17 And in the fishery, 2017, with the pre-  
18 season chinook salmon conservation concerns we had, in  
19 response to the very low pre-season run forecast for  
20 Copper River chinook salmon that was released by Fish  
21 and Game, management actions were taken in all up river  
22 fisheries, both State and Federal, during the early  
23 season with the intent of reducing chinook salmon  
24 harvest.

25  
26 The Wrangell-St. Elias superintendent  
27 issued two special actions under delegation of  
28 authority from the Federal Subsistence Board that  
29 delayed the season start date for the subsistence  
30 fishery in the Glennallen subdistrict from May 15th to  
31 June 1 and reduced the combined chinook salmon harvest  
32 limit for dipnet and rod and reel gear types for both  
33 Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts from ten to two.  
34 Actually, there's a type in your report. It says ten  
35 to five. But it was actually reduced to two.

36  
37 These special actions were issued after  
38 consultation with the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska  
39 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Wrangell-St.  
40 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission, Tribal Councils  
41 in the communities eligible to participate in the  
42 fishery, local management biologist of the Department  
43 of Fish and Game. And the actions are consistent with  
44 specific recommendation from the Subsistence Resource  
45 Commission.

46  
47 As the season progressed, assessments  
48 of in river chinook salmon abundance indicated a higher  
49 abundance than forecast and a likelihood of achieving  
50

1 sustainable escapement goals and on June 9th Federal  
2 restrictions were lifted and chinook salmon returned to  
3 the five by -- five by rod and reel.

4  
5 And then presently we are reassessing  
6 Federal subsistence management in the Federal fishery  
7 of the Chitina subdistrict. We are actually inviting  
8 any comments and discussion you might have on this as  
9 we did with the SRC and we will with other Tribal and  
10 other local -- any constituents.

11  
12 So the Federal subsistence fishery in  
13 the Chitina subdistrict began in 2002 after being  
14 established by the Federal Subsistence Board during  
15 their December 2001 regulatory meeting. The approved  
16 regulatory language established a Federal subsistence  
17 fishing season and methods and means in the Chitina  
18 subdistrict identical to the Federal season and methods  
19 and means in place for the Glennallen subdistrict. The  
20 season is written to be from May 15th through September  
21 30th.

22  
23 Although the Federal season in the  
24 Chitina subdistrict was approved to be identical to  
25 that of the Glennallen subdistrict, a precautionary  
26 approach was discussed by the Board to allow time for  
27 an evaluation of Federal user effort and harvest in  
28 this subdistrict which could be used to adapt future  
29 management practices. The Federal Subsistence Board  
30 discussion provided intent and direction for the  
31 Federal subsistence fishery to be scheduled for at  
32 least the first year and more if necessary consistent  
33 with the State subsistence fishery in the Chitina  
34 subdistrict. And of note, since the time of the Board  
35 discussion, the State fishery in Chitina has been  
36 determined by the State Board of Fisheries to be  
37 classified as personal use instead of subsistence.

38  
39 So from 2002 to '17, management efforts  
40 coordinated with the state -- or in management efforts  
41 coordinated with the State, the delegated Federal in-  
42 season management fishery has routinely special actions  
43 to open and close the Chitina subdistrict Federal  
44 subsistence fishery in a schedule that coincides with  
45 the openings of the State fishery in this subdistrict.

46  
47 So evaluation of recent five and ten  
48 year averages, the participation and harvest has shown  
49 Federal use and harvest to be approximately one percent

1 of all use and harvest occurring in that subdistrict.  
2 And given this level of observed use and harvest, we  
3 are evaluating the justification of continuing to  
4 restrict Federal subsistence opportunity in this  
5 subdistrict. It's a restriction that is in effect  
6 based on the much higher level of use and harvest of  
7 the State personal use fishery in the subdistrict.

8

9

So that concludes that.

10

11

I invite any discussion on that.

12

13

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

Go ahead, Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Yes. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

Dave, especially your last paragraph is  
really valuable.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

MS. CAMINER: Because of course for us  
it's all about -- for everybody it's all about  
subsistence priority. So I mean that would be -- we  
encourage that evaluation to continue. And maybe you  
could just mention how, for example, the Tanada Creek  
weir might help in some of this evaluation or some of  
the in-season management.

MR. SARAFIN: Well, the Tanada Creek --  
I mean the lower River Chitina -- you know, the early  
season of it could affect what makes it further up  
river. And we do intend -- what we envision anyways if  
we were to do this is we probably still may delay the  
opening date of Chitina from May 15. We've had voice  
from SRC and others that encouraged that. That maybe

1 May 15th is too early, especially the lower you are on  
2 the river because that's fish that are likely to make  
3 it further up like to Batzulnetas and Tanada.  
4

5 So it is something we'll be monitoring  
6 and it's always a key component to have the weir there  
7 to make sure and assess what our management actions  
8 down river have done. And also with the -- there's a  
9 cooperative nature of the management of the Batzulnetas  
10 area, too, with the relatively small group of users  
11 that may participate in that fishery who have expressed  
12 a -- you know, have willingly cooperated with the  
13 concerns we've had in the past.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Rick.  
16

17 MR. GEASE: Yeah. In your report you  
18 talk about percentages of permits reported and then you  
19 have reported harvest and then you just do a simple  
20 scale up to harvest estimates. Have you validated that  
21 the people who are not reporting are fishing? Have you  
22 validated that assumption that the 20 percent or so or  
23 ten percent or so of permits that aren't being reported  
24 are actually fishing?  
25

26 MR. SARAFIN: I haven't looked into  
27 that level. This is just to basically get reports  
28 coming in. What I do do -- we are sharing the data  
29 with Fish and Game. They prefer to have a basic  
30 lockout date on the database. And they do a more  
31 biometric expansion, where they include what -- their  
32 expansion of the Federal harvest. This I do just as I  
33 go.  
34

35 You know, I've reviewed some -- if I  
36 review the database, find some error or there may be a  
37 correction. I get reports in all the way into the next  
38 season. I add that in for extra information, but I'm  
39 not looking at the likelihood that the late reports or  
40 non-reports might not have fished compared to those  
41 that did. And so there is that factor that I haven't  
42 thrown in. This is just a basic expansion.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other.  
45

46 (No comments)  
47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Very  
49 good. Thank you much. Very good.  
50

1 Judy, you going to go?

2  
3 MS. PUTERA: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
4 Judy Putera, wildlife biologist from Wrangell-St. Elias  
5 National Park and Preserve.

6  
7 I will first present results from Dall  
8 sheep harvest -- Dall sheep surveys within the Park and  
9 Preserve. I work with my colleagues at the Tok area  
10 office Fish and Game and Glennallen area office Fish  
11 and Game to survey a number of sheep survey units  
12 throughout both GMU 11 and 12.

13  
14 And the first three tables in the  
15 report are results from our sheep surveys in 2017 and  
16 we also have some previous data to show some trends.  
17 And I -- excuse me. I have separated the tables to  
18 indicate that Fish and -- this is -- some of this is  
19 Fish and Game data and they have given me permission to  
20 present it to you here.

21  
22 The first table is a count -- or count  
23 area 7E. And I apologize. I realize I did not put the  
24 map in this report of where these count units are. But  
25 70 is out in the Chisana area in GMU 12. So we are  
26 seeing a fairly stable number of sheep in this unit  
27 with an increase in the lamb/ewe ratio, ewe like ratio  
28 and the ram/ewe like ratio.

29  
30 Under Table 2, count area 3 is also in  
31 the Chisana area. It's out at Ptarmigan -- I'm sorry.  
32 Count area 3 is actually -- it's a very large count  
33 unit that sort of spans GMU 11 and 12 and it's between  
34 the Nabesna River and the Copper River on the north  
35 side of the Wrangells.

36  
37 We saw a very large increase in the  
38 population of sheep there since we last surveyed that  
39 unit in 2012. We had increases in both ram and lamb to  
40 ewe ratios. Count Unit 9 is back in GMU 12 in the  
41 Chisana area, out in Ptarmigan Lake. We again had  
42 increases in total number of sheep. Ram to ewe ratios  
43 were slightly decreased and lamb to ewe ratios were  
44 increased.

45  
46 The next page. These two count areas  
47 are in unit 11 and they generally are surveyed every  
48 year or thereabouts. But this is really encouraging.  
49 Our count area 11 is -- I think it's in the -- between  
50

1 the Chetaslina River and the -- anyway, it's -- oh,  
2 okay. The Chetaslina River and the Kotsina River, I  
3 think. Or the -- anyway, it's in that area. Total  
4 sheep have increased. As well I just want to draw your  
5 attention to the lamb per 100 ewe ratio of 53. It  
6 seems -- I mean it's really, really good. And also in  
7 unit 22 -- that is out in the upper Chitina River area  
8 -- we also had an increase in sheep and a very high  
9 lamb to ewe like ratio.

10  
11 So we also have a project -- ongoing  
12 project with Alaska Department of Fish and Game with  
13 Tom Lohuis there. And we are looking at Dall sheep ram  
14 energetic survival and disbursal and their different  
15 harvest management regulations. That project began  
16 about a year ago.

17  
18 So that study area is basically  
19 actually between the Nabesna River and the Sanford  
20 River. It's not actually Drop Creek. It goes a little  
21 bit beyond that. In 2016, 40 rams were captured and  
22 fitted with GPS radio collars. Energetic parameters  
23 were measured both pre and post-rut. And then disease  
24 screening was also conducted on those captured rams.

25  
26 The radio collared rams were radio  
27 tracked once each month to determine mortality. All  
28 collared rams were alive as recently as October 2017  
29 and they actually came -- were out last week during the  
30 second year of the project. And all the rams were  
31 still alive.

32  
33 He also -- Tom Lohuis also gave me just  
34 a really brief update. I asked him about the disease  
35 screening and he said there were no worries there.  
36 That everything looked good. So that was a positive  
37 note.

38  
39 In conjunction with that sheep study,  
40 we also have another researcher from the University of  
41 Washington who's doing a -- she's gotten funding from  
42 NASA and she's doing a project to model snow using NASA  
43 satellite imaging and so forth on their satellites.  
44 But basically what she's doing is ground truthing the  
45 snow in the winter out there, so she's got stakes and  
46 time lapse cameras and different things like that. And  
47 so that will all be put in a model and it will help us  
48 to evaluate how snow conditions affect sheep movements  
49 and habitat use and things like that in the winter.

50

1 And that will be interesting as we have changes in our  
2 climate.

3  
4 And there is website for that project.  
5 And I've put it there. And it's got some nice progress  
6 reports and it actually explains the project probably  
7 much better than I can do.

8  
9 Okay. Moving on to caribou, we -- I've  
10 put down our last several population estimates for the  
11 Mentasta caribou herd. And as we talked about quite a  
12 bit when we were discussing the proposals, my fall herd  
13 size estimate for the Mentasta herd this year is 429  
14 animals.

15  
16 And the next table is basically our  
17 fall comp counts. And I've just included a lot of  
18 historical data there to kind of show all those years  
19 of very low cow -- calves per 100 cows there in the  
20 fall and how we're sort of improving those ratios in  
21 recent years.

22  
23 We also monitor the Chisana caribou  
24 herd, which is primarily in unit 12. On table six,  
25 this year we did a -- our all composition count. And I  
26 have just right now split the data between Alaska and  
27 Yukon. Generally, the Yukon folks do the Yukon side of  
28 the range and then the Alaska folks do the Alaska side  
29 of the range. And I haven't gotten all the raw data to  
30 join those, but anyway I reported each side. We comped  
31 over 500 caribou.

32  
33 And our management plan says to keep  
34 this small subsistence harvest that we have going, we  
35 need to have a rolling three-year average of 20 calves  
36 per 100 cows and I think it's 35 bulls per 100 cows.  
37 So it looks like we are still able to keep that hunt  
38 going.

39  
40 I also got some extra funding to do  
41 some habitat work for the Chisana caribou herd. Based  
42 on our management plan, there has been some speculation  
43 that we have a very low amount of lichen and a high  
44 amount of moss. There was some work done back in the  
45 '90s and early 2000s looking at vegetation composition  
46 from fecal pellets from the herd. So I went ahead and  
47 did a similar project in 2015 and '16 and this is what  
48 is presented in Table 7.

49  
50



1                   So went out and tracked our radio  
2   collared animals in the winter and a couple of days  
3   later or a day later we would go out to those areas  
4   with a helicopter, land, and pick up fecal pellets.  
5   And we did this, you know, several times throughout the  
6   winter. And our results are here. And I've put  
7   lichens and mosses -- they were the most prevalent in  
8   the fecal samples. And basically, you know, we have  
9   about -- I don't know, 40 -- probably about 46 percent  
10   over that, you know, average of lichen in the diet and  
11   mosses -- I don't know -- probably around 30 percent or  
12   so.

13  
14                   And just comparing that with other  
15   studies, the winter diets of 13 Yukon woodland (ph)  
16   caribou herds sampled between 1981 and 2001 were  
17   predominantly lichen. So 75 percent while moss made up  
18   only a minor component of the diets. So we do have  
19   quite a bit of moss in our winter diets for the Chisana  
20   caribou herd.

21  
22                   And then other studies have shown  
23   lichens to comprise over 50 percent of the winter diet  
24   of caribou herds in Alaska.

25  
26                   So we are definitely under that  
27   average.

28  
29                   And then for Table 8 I've just took out  
30   the moss and lichen -- oh, I'm sorry. We did  
31   preliminary -- we did vegetation sampling in the summer  
32   throughout the range to see, you know, what our  
33   vegetation was like out there. And I've pulled just  
34   the moss and lichen data out of the overall table. So  
35   just to kind of compare with our results from the fecal  
36   samples.

37  
38                   So we had quite a bit more ground  
39   covering moss than lichens and we're of course  
40   interested in lichens because they're important winter  
41   forage. Because they're energy rich, highly palatable,  
42   and easily digested and mosses have extremely low  
43   nutritional value and digestibility compared to  
44   lichens.

45  
46                   So in terms of lichen cover, the  
47   Chisana caribou herd range has cover values that are  
48   within the range reported for most other woodland,  
49   bearing ground (ph) caribou herds of 13 to 24 percent  
50

1 of all lichens and 8 to 11 percent for forage lichens.  
2 However, we observed very few dense lichen mats in our  
3 study area and we measured biomass -- lichen biomass  
4 and we came up with 238 kilograms per hectare within  
5 the Chisana caribou range, which is very low compared  
6 to that of other Alaska caribou ranges and Yukon  
7 ranges, which can be up to 3,799 kilograms per hectare.  
8 So I think we have the distribution of lichen. We just  
9 don't have that high biomass of lichen in the Range.

10  
11 And lastly we are also -- we plan to do  
12 our wolf population survey within the Range of the  
13 Chisana caribou herd in March, April of 2018. And this  
14 is also an action item in the Chisana caribou herd  
15 management plan.

16  
17 And that's all I have.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

20  
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes. Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara  
26 Cellarius, with Wrangell-St. Elias. And when you're  
27 done with any questions with Judy, I'd just like to  
28 have a few minutes as well.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Will do.

31  
32 Any questions.

33  
34 Gloria.

35  
36 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. Can you speak  
37 briefly about the working groups? Tell them about that  
38 -- the night before the meeting?

39  
40 MS. PUTERA: Right. Our  
41 superintendent, Ben Bobowski, convened folks that were  
42 interested in getting together to talk about our kind  
43 of three caribou herds and how we can work together to  
44 sort of fill information gaps and talk about  
45 management. So we had Fish and Game, Tetlin National  
46 Wildlife Refuge, of course Wrangell-St. Elias folks,  
47 BLM. Jesse Hankins was there. And then we invited  
48 members from the SRC and Ahtna, I believe, and AITRC.

49  
50

1 And anyway, we had a really good  
2 discussion. And went around the room and everybody,  
3 you know, indicated what they were concerned about or  
4 what, you know, they'd like to see -- what they thought  
5 were data gaps and whatnot. So we did -- we had a  
6 really good discussion. We formed working groups. So  
7 we're going to work together to try to resolve a lot of  
8 these issues. And we'll just continue to be getting  
9 together to do this.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 MS. CAMINER: Barb, this is Judy. And  
14 Greg had to step out of the room. So if you'll go  
15 ahead with your presentation, that would be great.

16  
17 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Thank you.

18  
19 At the end of the handout there's -- I  
20 had a couple of pages of information. The main thing I  
21 would mention is that we have set the quota for the  
22 winter moose hunt at seven bulls. You talked about the  
23 potential expansion of the season for that hunt. We  
24 didn't see any harvest of Chisana caribou herd this  
25 year. There is a table in the handout at the back that  
26 has some information on the Federal registration  
27 permits and also the joint State permit for the bull  
28 moose hunt in portions of Unit 11 and 12.

29  
30 But what I really wanted to talk to you  
31 about was an action item that is on your agenda. I  
32 believe that you should have a handout that's on the  
33 Park letterhead that's labeled Wrangell-St. Elias  
34 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. There's  
35 a photograph of the SRC at the bottom. Is that  
36 something that you've got in your packet?

37  
38 MS. CAMINER: Give us a minute, Barb,  
39 to look for it. Or Donald can help us out here. We  
40 did have your other info though. Hold on.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Information.....

43  
44 MS. CELLARIUS: It was something I sent  
45 to Donald a month or so ago. And I can certainly move  
46 forward with my presentation if you don't find it. I  
47 just thought.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We have it,

50

1 Barbara. We got it.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Great. So I'm  
4 going to give you a short version of my presentation,  
5 but if there are questions I can go back and give you  
6 more details.

7

8 Under the provisions of ANILCA,  
9 Regional Advisory Councils appoint three members to  
10 each Subsistence Resource Commission. And in the case  
11 of the Southcentral RAC, you appoint one member to the  
12 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.  
13 Currently, your appointee to the commission is Gloria  
14 Stickwan. In order to be eligible for these  
15 appointments, individuals must either serve on the  
16 Regional Advisory Council or serve on one of the local  
17 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

18

19 Gloria's term expires this month. So  
20 you have an opportunity at this meeting to take action  
21 on this appointment. And I did talk to Gloria and she  
22 said she was interested in reappointment, so I haven't  
23 gone looking for Advisory Council members. Dan Stevens  
24 would also be eligible, but he's been appointed to the  
25 SRC by the Secretary of the Interior.

26

27 So I guess sort of turn it over to you.  
28 But would appreciate if you would be willing to either  
29 reappoint Gloria or appoint someone else to take action  
30 on this appointment in other words.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Oh, okay.  
33 We're going to take care of that here in a second.

34

35 Go ahead, Judy.

36

37 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 Thanks, Barb and Donald for bringing this up to us.

39

40 Gloria, we appreciate that you're once  
41 again willing to serve and represent us and so I'd like  
42 to nominate that this RAC recommend appointment of  
43 Gloria Stickwan to the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence  
44 Resource Commission.

45

46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Gloria has  
49 been nominated and seconded. Any discussion.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: End of  
4 discussion. All in favor.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

9

10 MS. STICKWAN: I was just thinking if I  
11 don't get reappointment by the -- you know, the  
12 Secretary of the Interior that maybe Dan Stevens. If I  
13 don't get reappointed, is what I'm saying, to this RAC.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh. To the RAC.

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: To the RAC.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No chance.

20

21 MS. STICKWAN: That maybe Dan could be  
22 an alternate. Since he's -- you got your seat.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We'll cross that  
25 bridge when we get to it.

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: Okay. Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is everyone good  
30 with that. All in favor -- is it unanimous.

31

32 IN UNISON: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Unanimous  
35 consent. We appoint Gloria back to you.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Mary has the same  
42 question on Denali. You think so? Okay. Go ahead.

43

44 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Yes. For the record, my name is Mary McBurney. I'm  
46 the subsistence team lead for the National Park Service  
47 Alaska Region. And I was asked here today by Amy  
48 Craver, the subsistence coordinator for Denali National  
49 Park. And Barbara provided me the perfect lead in to

50

1 the order of business that I am bringing before you  
2 this afternoon.

3  
4 There is a member of the Denali SRC  
5 whose seat is up for reappointment. And the  
6 Southcentral RAC is the appointing authority for that  
7 seat. And I am speaking about Jeff Burney. And for  
8 those of you that don't know Jeff, I have just a little  
9 bit of biographical information I can share with you.  
10 He's been a resident of Cantwell for quite some time.  
11 Since 1978. And he has also been a member of the local  
12 AC and the Denali SRC for about the past eight years.

13  
14 He is a regular attendee and  
15 participant of the Denali SRC meetings and is someone  
16 that is pretty reliable for showing up and  
17 participating in those meetings. He also is a  
18 subsistence user that regularly hunts for moose in the  
19 area and he also is an active trapper in the Denali  
20 traditional use area. And that's the information I  
21 have on Jeff. And Denali National Park and the SRC  
22 requests that he be reappointed to the Denali SRC.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got  
25 that.

26  
27 Would you like to make a -- oh, Gloria.

28  
29 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering.  
30 Eleanor -- is she online? Or is she interested? Or  
31 her seat's up next year? Or what's -- is she going to  
32 apply again or what?

33  
34 (No comment)

35  
36 MR. MIKE: Eleanor, are you still with  
37 us? And Gloria was asking if your seat's still up-to-  
38 date? Or what's the status of your seat on the SRC for  
39 Denali?

40  
41 (No comment)

42  
43 MR. MIKE: Eleanor, are you still with  
44 us?

45  
46 (No comment)

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: I think Gloria, we might  
4 have appointed Eleanor last year.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Recently.

7

8 MS. CAMINER: Yeah. And we have  
9 appointed Jeff before, so you're right. Probably her  
10 term is not up yet.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Is she still on there?

13

14 MS. CAMINER: Oh, yes.

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: She would still be  
17 reporting to us?

18

19 MS. CAMINER: Oh, definitely.

20

21 MS. STICKWAN: Because I've heard more  
22 reports from her than Jeff McBurney. But.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So is that  
25 cleared up. We've still got one and we're reappointing  
26 the other one again.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Right.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay. Now  
31 I'll let you speak.

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Mr. Chair, I move  
34 that the Council recommend that Jeff Burney be  
35 reappointed to the Denali Subsistence Resource  
36 Commission. We were asked about him a few years ago  
37 and it's good to hear he seems to be doing a good job  
38 and like to see him reappointed.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a  
41 second to that one.

42

43 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by  
46 Diane. Okay.

47

48 Is everyone in agreement with that one  
49 also. So we've got a unanimous agreement.

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, so  
4 be it. We'll appoint him unanimously. Thank you.

5

6 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 And before I leave the table I would  
9 like to draw your attention that Denali National Park  
10 did submit a very nice report that begins on page 258  
11 in your book. And there you will find survey  
12 information from their latest sheep, caribou, and moose  
13 surveys, as well as the most recent information on  
14 their monitoring efforts with brown bears and wolves.

15

16 And finally, there's also a very nice  
17 report in there about Amy Craver's project regarding  
18 the traditional place names project that she's been  
19 working on for the past couple of years.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,  
24 Mary. Very good. We'll do some reading.

25

26 Okay, Donald. I'm looking at the  
27 agenda. Are we wanting to come back tomorrow or are we  
28 wanting to finish up today? Or do we want to go to  
29 lunch?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Let's keep going.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we could  
36 keep going if it's okay with the Council. And we'll  
37 just wrap it up.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: Yep.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is that okay with  
42 everyone. Okay. BLM.

43

44 MR. HANKINS: Mr. Chair, Members of the  
45 Council, for the record, my name is Jesse Hankins. I'm  
46 a biologist with BLM in Glennallen. And Donald has  
47 informed me that I have approximately 85 minutes from  
48 past meetings that I have not used, so.....

49

50



1 (Laughter)

2  
3 MR. HANKINS: I'm just joking. I'm  
4 going to provide a report here. I put this on your  
5 desk on day one. It's an agency report on behalf of  
6 BLM. If you'd like to reference that as I through  
7 this, we can look at this together.

8  
9 Just a general update, the Bureau of  
10 Land Management and ADF&G has entered into a  
11 cooperative agreement. The main objective of that  
12 agreement is looking cooperatively at subsistence  
13 resource species within GMU 13 on Federal public lands  
14 and our adjacent State managed lands.

15  
16 Primarily, those efforts are focused on  
17 moose and caribou, large subsistence resources in Unit  
18 13; however, there is an opportunity to look at other  
19 things, such as furbearers. I like to point that out.  
20 We entered into that agreement last year and have been  
21 working cooperatively on radio collaring moose and comp  
22 counts, things of that nature. I've had the  
23 opportunity to get into a Super Cub and help do some  
24 comp counts, so that's enjoyable.

25  
26 Moving on to Unit 13 moose, just kind  
27 of an update on moose. Weather conditions were not  
28 suitable for an abundance estimate in 2016. About this  
29 time last year we were trying to get in the air and do  
30 what's called a geospatial population estimate in 13B,  
31 which encompasses a lot of BLM public lands open for  
32 Federal subsistence. Weather conditions did not  
33 cooperate and that survey was not completed; however,  
34 there were some more opportunistic type comp surveys  
35 that were completed within those subunits. And report  
36 that all of 13, with the exception of 13A, were at or  
37 above objectives for bull/cow ratios. And those are  
38 objectives set by the State of Alaska. 25 to 100 for  
39 that bull/cow ratio.

40  
41 We're hoping to get in the air this  
42 year again if conditions are right to do a population  
43 estimate. And that will be BLM supporting ADF&G in  
44 that effort. And hopefully I can get in the air again  
45 in a contracted Super Cub and help out in that manner.

46  
47 Looking at GMU 13 caribou, the last  
48 photo census was conducted in 2016. At that time they  
49 reported a minimum herd count of 49,550 caribou. And

50

1 that last regulatory year approximately 6,000 caribou  
2 were harvested in that 16/17 season.

3  
4 The weather bugs -- temperature didn't  
5 cooperate this year. The caribou didn't really group  
6 like they would hope, so they were not able to conduct  
7 their photo census. Looking at some information  
8 available to them, it was estimated the herd's probably  
9 at around 50,000 caribou going into this hunting  
10 season.

11  
12 So that's just kind of a brief update  
13 on the moose and caribou. I wanted to point out that  
14 our staff at Glennallen is quite proud of our hunt  
15 report return rate. I mentioned it earlier in the  
16 meetings, but last year's Federal moose hunt, almost  
17 1,400 permits issued and we had a 97 percent return  
18 rate, so that's something we're proud of.

19  
20 Getting those hunt reports back, I  
21 think that's important. And we're sharing that  
22 information with the State actually on almost a weekly  
23 basis. Letting those guys know what we're having for a  
24 harvest and sharing that information. So happy with  
25 that 95 percent return rate on caribou.

26  
27 So just wanted to point that out.

28  
29 Put a plug in for ourselves.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 MR. HANKINS: And the subsistence users  
34 for returning that report to us.

35  
36 Turning over to the next page, we'll  
37 look at the moose harvest status in GMU 13. Just the  
38 table there at the top of the page showing what we've  
39 issued this year. We issued 1,398 moose permits this  
40 year. Of those approximately half the people attempted  
41 use on that permit. Those individuals may also have  
42 State permits in their hunting on that opportunity as  
43 well, but typically about half the people issued  
44 permits do actively hunt on that permit. And we had 89  
45 bulls harvested this year. Again, that's any antlered  
46 bull.

47  
48 And just as part of that reporting  
49 process, they report the number of tines and antler

50

1 spread. And we can get at some of the information to  
2 share with the State what portion of the Federal bulls  
3 might meet the State hunt requirement as well. The  
4 spike fork, 50-inch or the four brow tine. And this  
5 year it's approximately about a third of that harvest  
6 would meet that State requirement.

7  
8 We're slightly above the five-year  
9 average for bulls harvested within Unit 13. At this  
10 time we have 88 percent of the hunt reports reported.  
11 Our hunter success number will likely go down a little  
12 bit as those hunt reports filter in, but quite similar  
13 to what we've seen in years past on our five-year  
14 average. Again you can see we continue to issue more  
15 and more permits year after year, but harvest seems to  
16 be fairly stable.

17  
18 We'll flip this over to look at the  
19 last page. Look at caribou harvest status. This hunt  
20 is an ongoing hunt. This hunt closes on March 31st.  
21 So this data is incomplete at this time. But issued  
22 3,025 permits to date. We have a harvest of 322  
23 caribou. That's as of I guess Sunday. Again, the  
24 information is very premature. At this time a lot of  
25 hunts haven't been reported. In fact, there's people  
26 that still have an opportunity to go out there and  
27 harvest critters; however, a lot of the Nelchina herd  
28 has left the Nelchina Basin and you'll work hard to get  
29 a caribou in Unit 13 at this time.

30  
31 There was a lot of opportunity early in  
32 the year. Say the month of August there seemed to be a  
33 lot of caribou in and around Federal public lands and  
34 there was a fair amount of harvest occurring. There  
35 was a fairly big push in August and then it kind of  
36 slowed down. And then another big push there in  
37 September. And we don't anticipate a whole lot more  
38 harvest occurring in this winter season. With that  
39 said, there's always resident caribou within the unit  
40 that folks can -- that can work to get at, but likely  
41 we'll not see much more harvest coming up in the winter  
42 months.

43  
44 That is my 85-minute report in about  
45 six minutes, so if you have any questions I can  
46 entertain those.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We've got  
49 Gloria. Go ahead.

1 MS. STICKWAN: I don't understand. You  
2 said one-third of the harvest for moose of the 89. Is  
3 that one-third of 89 are the restricted -- you can pull  
4 that out and say that they have restricted antlers? Is  
5 that what you meant? I don't understand what you  
6 meant.

7  
8 MR. HANKINS: Okay. Through the Chair.  
9 Of those 89 bulls harvested, one-third of them  
10 approximately would meet the State requirement for  
11 either being a spike, a fork, 50 inches wide or having  
12 four brow tines.

13  
14 MS. STICKWAN: And to just let you  
15 know, somebody in the audience took a picture of  
16 caribou in Glennallen. About ten miles out of  
17 Glennallen. It was on Facebook.

18  
19 MR. HANKINS: Interesting. Yeah.  
20 There are no Federal public lands there, Gloria.

21  
22 MS. STICKWAN: That was just on Sunday.

23  
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -  
25 away from mic)

26  
27 MS. STICKWAN: We don't care about  
28 that.

29  
30 MR. HANKINS: Okay.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: She's looking for  
35 the caribou.

36  
37 MR. HANKINS: Yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
40 questions for Jesse here.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good report.  
45 Very punctual.

46  
47 MR. HANKINS: Yeah.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very  
50

1 much. A lot of information. Appreciate it.  
2  
3 Okay. What do we got next.  
4  
5 We got ADF&G.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 MS. CAMINER: I think they're gone.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Man, they blew  
14 it.  
15  
16 (Laughter)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: They did  
19 everything they could all along.  
20  
21 How about OSM. Anyone.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tom, do you want  
26 to say some parting thoughts?  
27  
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: I do. Being last I can  
29 be brief, correct?  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure.  
32  
33 MS. CAMINER: You could.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You could, but  
36 there's a time limit on this thing, you know. You  
37 notice it's got a big asterisk on it.  
38  
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: I gathered that, Mr.  
40 Chair.  
41  
42 My name is Tom Doolittle. I'm the  
43 deputy assistant regional director for OSM and  
44 providing a Staff report to the Council.  
45  
46 And I know that I am last, so I will be  
47 brief. And apologies for an oral report, but I think  
48 it's best to do it this way after listening to what I  
49 see as a very well rounded and thoughtful Council. And  
50

1 I have appreciated the dialogue because to me this is  
2 one of the hearts and souls of our process -- and with  
3 you and the public. And so I first wanted to extend  
4 that personal thanks and programmatic thanks, you know,  
5 to the Council and for the opportunity to report to  
6 you, for the hospitality of this Refuge, to the  
7 Community of Homer and the public for attending this  
8 meeting.  
9

10 We've had a few Staff changes in the  
11 last year. Jennifer Hardin has moved into a new  
12 position internally. Christine Brummer is a new Staff  
13 member and myself. And I'm going to give you just a  
14 brief overview about these individuals and some of  
15 their qualifications.  
16

17 Jennifer, who you've met, was an  
18 internal lateral transfer into a vacant policy  
19 coordinator position at OSM. She has been a quick  
20 study of ANILCA since she's been at OSM, is an expert  
21 at subsistence law and policy. Dr. Hardin has  
22 experience with multiple Federal agencies and Tribal  
23 entities. In a prior life she was an American Indian  
24 liaison and park anthropologist at Yosemite National  
25 Park. Previously with OSM she was the anthropology  
26 division supervisor and was an acting fishery division  
27 supervisor, which has given her a breadth of experience  
28 to excel at her position as policy coordinator.  
29

30 Since Jennifer was the former  
31 anthropology lead, this has created a vacancy in our  
32 anthropology division, so we'll need to hire a new  
33 position for that.  
34

35 Christine Brummer was hired as a  
36 Pathway student. And Pathway's program is a bridge  
37 between students to encourage permanent Federal  
38 employment. You know, and it starts at a formative  
39 stage while they're in school. Both college and  
40 graduate school. Christine is attending UAA as an  
41 anthropology student in the Pathways program and is a  
42 bridge, as I said, to Federal employment. She is from  
43 Anchorage, with two bachelor's degrees, and is pursuing  
44 her master's degree in Anthropology. And she's doing a  
45 wonderful job in her last few months.  
46

47 I took Chuck Ardizzone's job and I was  
48 told to do a brief bio about myself. And so I won't  
49 start from about when I started my interest in natural  
50

1 resource management at the age of five, but we can go  
2 on from there. I started my career with the National  
3 Park Service at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore  
4 on Lake Superior, in Northern Wisconsin. And then  
5 working for 12 years as a fish and wildlife biologist  
6 and program supervisor and as a law enforcement  
7 supervisor and warden for the Bad River Band, a Lake  
8 Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This included the  
9 reservation, Western Lake Superior Tribal commercial  
10 fisheries, home use fisheries, and the ceded  
11 territories which were the public lands of Michigan,  
12 Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

13  
14 Then I came to Alaska as a supervisory  
15 fish and wildlife biologist and later became the deputy  
16 Refuge manager at Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.  
17 I was stationed in Bethel, Alaska, for seven years.  
18 After my tenure in Western Alaska I went to Wisconsin  
19 to reconnect with five new grandchildren that I really  
20 hadn't met, so that was one of those great personal  
21 decisions, and conduct a sharp-tailed grouse  
22 restoration project for the United States Forest  
23 Service. And once I had that program secure and  
24 running, I went to the Tongass National Forest for a  
25 short stint supervising the Fish and Wildlife  
26 Subsistence and Water Management Program on Prince of  
27 Wales Island, in Southeast Alaska, before accepting my  
28 position at OSM last January.

29  
30 So it's good to be back and it's great  
31 to -- you know, to introduce some our Staff changes.

32  
33 Another thing, just like any  
34 organization we've had retirements. Palma Ingles was  
35 an anthropologist and she retired after a long tenure  
36 in government service. Don Rivard retired from OSM as  
37 a fishery biologist after 32 years of Federal service.  
38 Sabrina Schmidt left our front desk because her husband  
39 was reassigned to a military duty station in Las Vegas.

40  
41 And so we are essentially down four  
42 positions. We will attempt to get waivers and we are  
43 in a -- what I call a hiring freeze. And right now  
44 we're at -- I called it a snow -- a very slow melt to  
45 try to hire new positions within the agency right now.  
46 Our waivers need to go to Washington, D.C. to get  
47 approvals and be aware that it may take at least a year  
48 to refill some of these positions.

49  
50

1 We are still awaiting approvals from  
2 the Department of Interior to publish the January 2017  
3 Board approved fish regulations in the Federal  
4 Register. There has been heavy scrutiny of those  
5 regulations passed within the last 90 days of the last  
6 administration and this review has taken a long time.

7  
8 We are consistently trying to move  
9 forward with this regulatory process, but no recent  
10 news on that. We definitely hope to see those  
11 regulations move forward in the near future. The  
12 regulations are at the printer, but need to be in the  
13 Federal Register before printing or we cannot enforce  
14 the new regulations. All previous regulations are in  
15 effect since the new regulations are considered  
16 revisions of the past regulations.

17  
18 OSM is pleased that our wildlife cycle  
19 was approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
20 headquarters and the Department of Interior, resulting  
21 in our process moving forward. That our RACs and our  
22 Board are functioning as usual. And this includes our  
23 nomination packages to appoint new RAC members. So  
24 it's not all being stalled back. Is that many part of  
25 our process under the new administration is moving  
26 forward, which we're pleased to see.

27  
28 A preliminary budget for subsistence in  
29 the coming year is looking about the same as last year.  
30 The president's budget and the recent past budget of the  
31 House for subsistence looks very similar to last year's  
32 budget as well. We still have the Senate and president  
33 to go. We are on a continuing resolution until early  
34 December and there is still a possibility in this later  
35 process of large cuts, but so far so good for our base  
36 of operations.

37  
38 So when we look at the advocacy for  
39 subsistence at a variety of different levels from --  
40 you know, people from the State of Alaska and the  
41 public -- it has definitely spoken to what we've seen  
42 in the preliminary budget process, so we are thankful  
43 for that as a program. Still operating like most  
44 Federal agencies as we've looked and reviewed the FRMP  
45 process at a lower level.

46  
47 We are continuing -- and I know one  
48 agenda item that was brought up was where we were at  
49 with our MOU between the State and OSM. The last  
50



1 meeting on that, that included people from OSM and the  
2 Forest Service and BLM, was in April of 2017. There  
3 have been edits on a draft document by both agencies  
4 and ADF&G. There are obviously ongoing issues that  
5 this Council has addressed very well, both with the  
6 Ahtna agreement, along with the Kenai gillnet fishery  
7 issues, and then in Western Alaska with Kuskokwim  
8 issues.  
9

10 So there's still some aspects that are  
11 part of that MOU that are involving the complexity of  
12 some of these issues that have made this process slow.  
13 But again it is on our docket to keep moving forward  
14 with this. And after this RAC meeting I can see very  
15 clearly on why -- you know, that this RAC is solution-  
16 based and providing great information to the Board.  
17 And seeing recent signatures on agreements with NTC and  
18 a solid working relationship between the agencies and  
19 fisheries, I see that we're moving forward on many of  
20 these complex issues. And so that will help the MOU  
21 process out.  
22

23 In closing, I would like to thank the  
24 Staff -- the OSM Staff for putting this together and  
25 the great work that they do. The partners, the  
26 agencies, of course the RAC, and the public. I cannot  
27 overstate more that this is one of the world's best  
28 examples of wildlife and fish management as a bottom up  
29 process of participation and working through issues in  
30 a consensus process to bring to a Federal Board -- and  
31 a Board that represents both the Secretaries of  
32 Interior and Agriculture.  
33

34 And I'll do my best to answer any  
35 questions that you might have.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Great  
38 report and consensus. Yeah.  
39

40 Okay. Questions for Tom.  
41

42 MS. CAMINER: One quick question.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.  
45

46 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Tom. Really  
47 appreciate the thoroughness of that report. And our  
48 sympathies on the hiring process. We know it's always  
49 an ordeal.  
50

1 We've been, you know, pleased to have  
2 Donald as our coordinator for many, many years. And at  
3 one point we heard there would be a transition, but we  
4 just wondered if you could give us an update on that  
5 situation.

6  
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, there's really  
8 not much to update on the transition. And I'm one that  
9 likes to keep things that work.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: And so Donald, I can't  
14 appreciate more the extra work that you have done and  
15 his participation with you and the Council and to have  
16 that positive feedback on Donald. Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

19  
20  
21 MS. STICKWAN: I couldn't understand  
22 what you said about the MOA. Are you talking about the  
23 State and Federal? There are just disagreements?  
24 They're just still working on it. Is that what you  
25 said?

26  
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: No. We wanted to make  
28 sure that we set a clear pathway so we knew exactly how  
29 we were going to serve the interests of Ahtna and to  
30 make sure that we had clear direction. And also a lot  
31 of the interests that the Ahtna region have just don't  
32 include Federal lands alone. They include obviously  
33 the State lands and State jurisdictions as well.

34  
35 MS. STICKWAN: Did you even mention the  
36 MOA with the State? Did you say something about that?

37  
38  
39 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

40  
41 MS. STICKWAN: What did he say? I  
42 guess I heard MOA, but I didn't understand what.

43  
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Just to make sure that  
45 we accommodate the interests of intertribal  
46 organizations such as Ahtna. There's also the  
47 InterTribal Fishery Commission out on the Kuskokwim.  
48 So there's a number of groups that are private  
49 committee and resource management groups that are

50

1 involved now more in the Federal program than they have  
2 been in the past, which is both encouraged, but also we  
3 need to make sure we reflect those responsibilities as  
4 they form and make sure we know those responsibilities  
5 are clear when we're working with our partners.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anything else.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Tom. It's  
12 a pleasure to have you. And it seems like you've got a  
13 good handle on her. So we look forward to working with  
14 you. It's great. Thank you.

15  
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: You run a great  
17 meeting, Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

20  
21 Donald, it looks like we've got to come  
22 up with a confirmation, the 2018 dates. And I know  
23 you've got them there. And there's no hassle, there's  
24 no conflict. So it's all set in stone, right?

25  
26 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
27 page 265 you can just reconfirm your winter meeting  
28 dates, which was scheduled for March 6th and 7th in  
29 Anchorage.

30  
31 And I handed out an updated fall  
32 meeting calendar for 2018 and it's in front of you.  
33 Once you confirm your winter meeting dates and then the  
34 Council can move to plan for the fall 2018 meeting  
35 date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 Any conflicts. Is that going to work.  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Everybody got it  
45 on their calendar. Is that going to work okay.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we just  
50

1 confirmed it, Donald. We're good to go.

2

3 Fall. That's a whole other story.

4

5 MR. GEASE: For the fall meeting, could  
6 we get clarification if Donald has conflicts.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,  
9 Donald.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Yes. If you look at your  
12 updated fall 2018 calendar, I also coordinate the  
13 Bristol Bay Region and they selected the November 6th  
14 and 7th. So that's the only dates you can avoid. So  
15 -- and also we have to avoid AFN week. It's just so  
16 busy for everyone. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about just  
19 before Halloween. The 29th, 30th, does that work for  
20 everyone.

21

22 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: Could I just suggest we  
27 do Tuesday, Wednesday. Because we were thinking of  
28 folks who've got travel time. Or Wednesday, Thursday.  
29 You know, anything. But Tuesday, Wednesday maybe.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Yeah.  
32 I just mentioned the 31st, Halloween. Some people like  
33 to be home for it. I know. So we could make Monday,  
34 Tuesday work for a change, I think, if we need to.

35

36 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If you've got to  
39 travel on Sunday, you've got to -- and they don't pay  
40 us for travel anyway, so it don't matter.

41

42 MR. GEASE: Is there an issue for  
43 potentially doing the 22nd and 23rd or something like  
44 that. Or the 23rd and 24th, the week before.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's what we're  
47 looking at. Yeah. There's a Nome.....

48

49 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, just for your

50

1 information, you know, we don't like to schedule more  
2 than three meetings in a week because we have Staff  
3 that we have to move around to attend these meetings  
4 and participate at these public meetings of the  
5 Council.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about  
10 29th and 30th of October then tentatively. Or as  
11 tentative as could be. Does that work. Monday,  
12 Tuesday.

13  
14 Is that going to work, Andy? Can we  
15 make it work?

16  
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That doesn't work with  
18 the way my days of travel go, so I might not be able to  
19 attend that.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I'm not  
22 sure what we could do. We.....

23  
24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: You're never going to  
25 be able to make everybody happy.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Yeah.  
28 Okay. We'll try that.

29  
30 MR. GEASE: Well, we could do the 5th  
31 and 6th or this -- oh, you can't do it that way.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

34  
35 Okay. 29th, 30th. I guess we'll hang  
36 on that. Where that's going to be -- going to be at  
37 your place in Anchorage, I guess.

38  
39 MS. CAMINER: If the next one will be  
40 in Anchorage, do we want this one to be somewhere else?  
41 This might.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh. This is the  
44 fall meeting.

45  
46 MS. CAMINER: Right. Right.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Yeah.  
49 Okay. Yeah. This one could be anywhere. It could be

50

1 in Tetlin.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: It will be fisheries,  
6 right?

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It will be  
9 fisheries. Yeah. Anyone got a preference. Okay.  
10 We'll decide at the next meeting.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That gives you  
15 plenty of time. Okay, Donald?

16

17 You guys all think about it and we'll  
18 get some suggestions to him. Okay.

19

20 Okay. We've got that done. We've got  
21 one last closing comments for the Council.

22

23 And I don't know if Eleanor is still  
24 online. I think we lost her. Or maybe she's not  
25 there. But I think we'll just start with Diane and  
26 we'll work our way around this way. Okay.

27

28 MS. SELANOFF: Sounds good. So I just  
29 wanted to thank you for a good meeting this week and  
30 also do a shout out to Judy for -- you know, when I  
31 first came in she came over and made sure that I  
32 understood what the expectations were and made me very  
33 comfortable right away.

34

35 And then also, too, to Andy for doing  
36 the mentoring. Taking me under his wing and saying --  
37 so I really appreciate that.

38

39 It's been a good experience to see --  
40 actually be at a meeting and sit down and see how this  
41 process works. And I'm looking forward to -- now that  
42 I do understand it a little bit better how I can better  
43 service the people that I represent in this area and  
44 the subsistence needs and how to bring those proposals  
45 forward to make changes to help them with their  
46 subsistence processes.

47

48 Anyway, thank you.

49

50

1 Safe travels home, everyone.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane.  
4  
5 Andy.

6  
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you.  
8 Just good meeting. Some tough issues.

9  
10 Thanks to Donald for all the  
11 organization of everything and reiterating what was  
12 just said with the closing comments there.

13  
14 That's it for me.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dan.

17  
18 MR. STEVENS: Thanks. It was a good  
19 meeting. This is a learning curve for me also. I'm  
20 starting to understand a lot more process of different  
21 agencies besides the Wrangell-Saint and everything else  
22 I've stood on.

23  
24 So this is a learning curve and thank  
25 you for the time.

26  
27 It was a good meeting.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

30  
31 MS. CAMINER: We did have some really  
32 good discussions and appreciate everybody's energy and  
33 attention and input. I think that the more we  
34 discussed, the better our decisions became. And some  
35 of them maybe were surprising, but I think that was the  
36 result of some good sharing of information. So thanks  
37 to everyone who helped make it happen.

38  
39 And one thought in future meetings, I  
40 always feel badly especially for BLM to be the last,  
41 last one. So maybe we -- almost last one -- OSM. But  
42 maybe we could think about the Agency reports  
43 occasionally at the beginning. It might be helpful for  
44 some of our discussions, too. So we might mix it up.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy.

49  
50

1 Gloria.

2  
3 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say thank  
4 you for listening to our proposals and the long  
5 discussion and patience. I thought it was a good  
6 meeting and I look forward to seeing more if I get  
7 reappointed.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
14 Gloria.

15  
16 Michael.

17  
18 MR. OPHEIM: Well, good meeting. Good  
19 to see all the new people on -- and really good  
20 discussions.

21  
22 Really educational.

23  
24 Learned a lot.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky.

27  
28 MR. GEASE: Good meeting. Glad to see  
29 everybody here. And thanks to the Islands and Ocean  
30 Center for hosting us here. And a great space to have  
31 a meeting down here in Homer.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ed.

34  
35 MR. HOLSTON: Yeah. I'm one of the new  
36 people, so this has been quite a learning experience  
37 for me. I appreciate all the help I've received from  
38 Donald and you, Greg, and Ricky. I feel a lot more  
39 comfortable this meeting than I did my first meeting,  
40 so hopefully my knowledge and effectiveness will  
41 improve.

42  
43 So thank you all for your help.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much,  
46 all of you.

47  
48 I'm going to make a couple of comments.

49  
50



1 One comment, I think it was a good  
2 meeting, too, and I think we had some very good debate.  
3 And I think we put the subsistence user first and we  
4 really vetted the process. And that's a bottom up  
5 approach and that's the way it's supposed to work. And  
6 I think it's working that way.

7  
8 The one thing that I would kind of  
9 request or remind that -- that proponent of the  
10 proposal, I like to see them at the meeting and talk to  
11 the issue. And in a couple of cases we didn't quite  
12 have that. But anyway, that's very good.

13  
14 And I thank all of the people that come  
15 here. And Tom Doolittle and Jennifer, congratulations  
16 sliding over and up or wherever you're going, but it  
17 sounds good.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 I know I give Jess a bad time, but he  
22 does a lot of hard work. Appreciate everyone. Scott  
23 and everyone, you guys did awesome. Milo, tell Old Tom  
24 that, you know, he's just going to have to take the  
25 luck of the draw. But other than that.....

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And Tom Evans,  
30 you stood a hard course there.

31  
32 But anyway, thank you guys all. Thank  
33 everyone. And with that I'm ready to move on.

34  
35 MS. CAMINER: Motion to adjourn.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We've got a  
38 motion to adjourn. Second.

39  
40 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded.

43  
44 MR. HOLSTON: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded, Ed.

47  
48 We stand adjourned. Thank you.

49  
50

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                    )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through  
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SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the  
7th day of November in Homer, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and  
correct transcript requested to be transcribed and  
thereafter transcribed by under my direction and  
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ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th  
day of November 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18